HUNTER × HUNTER™

ハンター × ハンター

18

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED

Story & Art by
YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

冨樫義博

I had to redraw a lot of this volume, too.

Yoshihiro Togashi

Yoshihiro Togashi's manga career began in 1986 at the age of 20, when he won the coveted Osamu Tezuka Award for new manga artists. He debuted in the Japanese **Weekly Shonen Jump** magazine in 1989 with the romantic comedy **Tende Shôwaru Cupid**. From 1990 to 1994 he wrote and drew the hit manga **YuYu Hakusho**, which was followed by the dark comedy science-fiction series **Level E**, and finally this adventure series, **Hunter x Hunter**, available from VIZ Media's SHONEN JUMP Advanced imprint. In 1999 he married the manga artist Naoko Takeuchi.

HUNTER X HUNTER Volume 18
The SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY
YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
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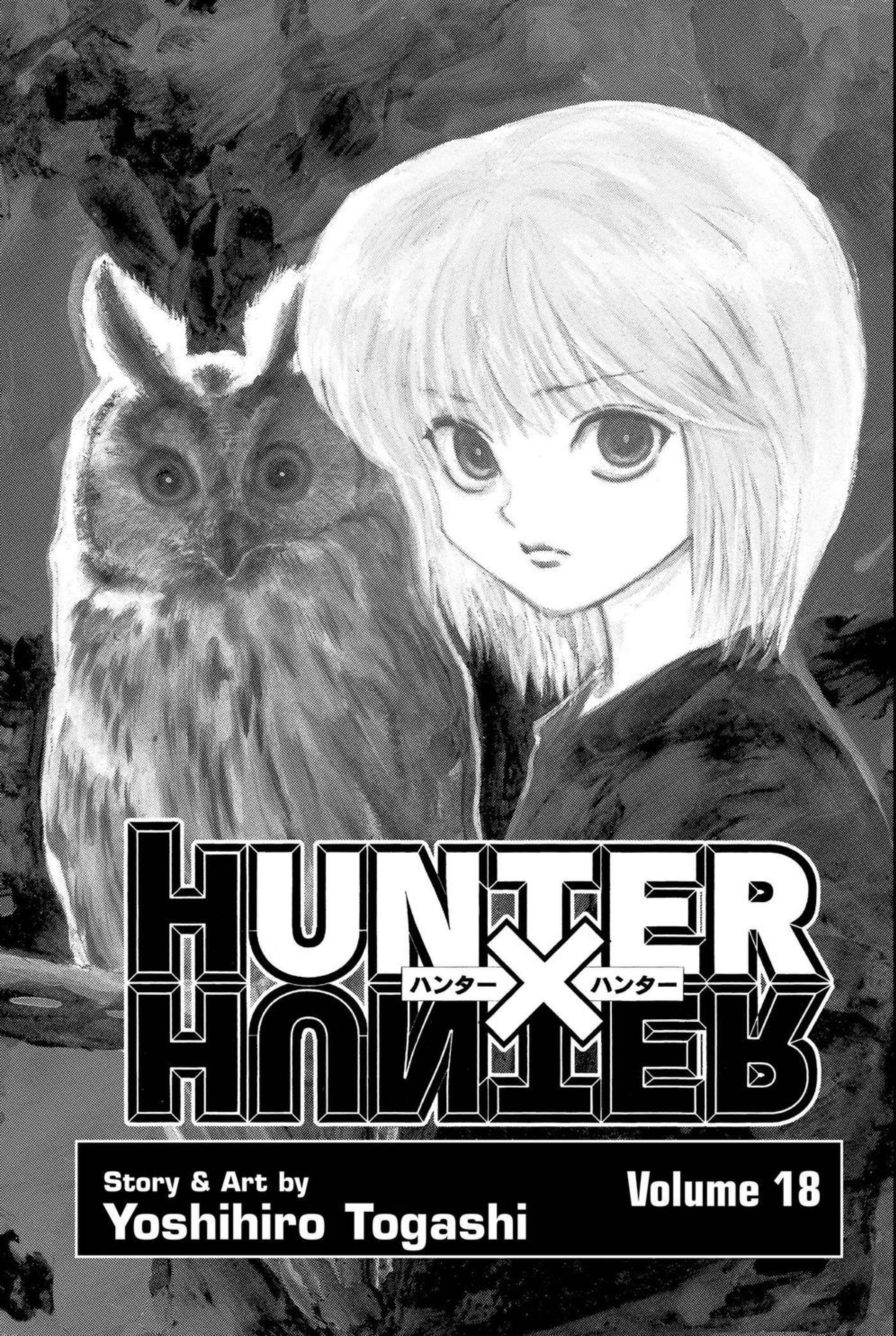
SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED MANGA



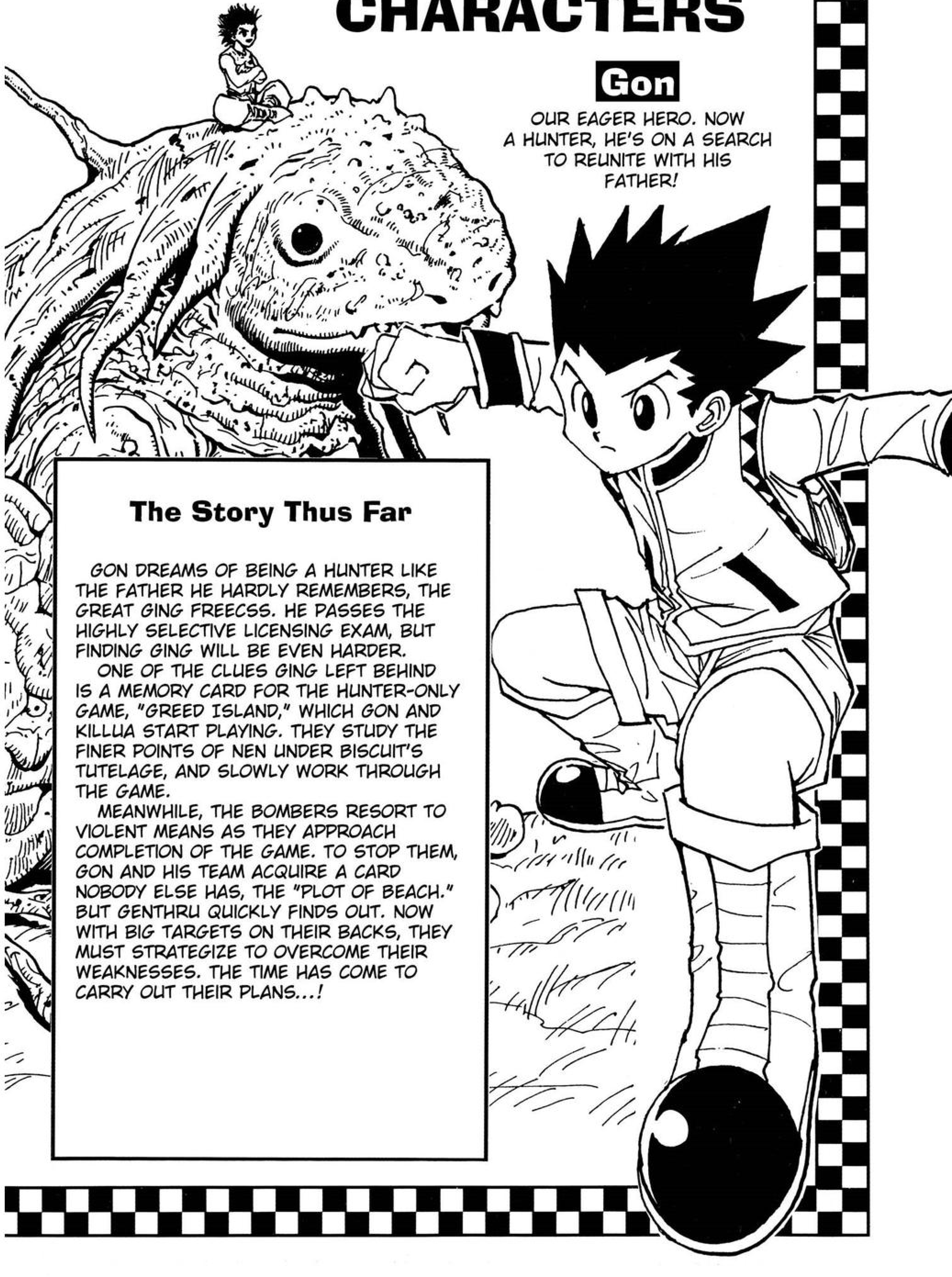
HUNTER × HUNTER

ハンター ハンター

Story & Art by
Yoshihiro Togashi

Volume 18

CHARACTERS



Gon

OUR EAGER HERO. NOW A HUNTER, HE'S ON A SEARCH TO REUNITE WITH HIS FATHER!

The Story Thus Far

GON DREAMS OF BEING A HUNTER LIKE THE FATHER HE HARDLY REMEMBERS, THE GREAT GING FREECSS. HE PASSES THE HIGHLY SELECTIVE LICENSING EXAM, BUT FINDING GING WILL BE EVEN HARDER.

ONE OF THE CLUES GING LEFT BEHIND IS A MEMORY CARD FOR THE HUNTER-ONLY GAME, "GREED ISLAND," WHICH GON AND KILLUA START PLAYING. THEY STUDY THE FINER POINTS OF NEN UNDER BISCUIT'S TUTELAGE, AND SLOWLY WORK THROUGH THE GAME.

MEANWHILE, THE BOMBERS RESORT TO VIOLENT MEANS AS THEY APPROACH COMPLETION OF THE GAME. TO STOP THEM, GON AND HIS TEAM ACQUIRE A CARD NOBODY ELSE HAS, THE "PLOT OF BEACH." BUT GENTHRU QUICKLY FINDS OUT. NOW WITH BIG TARGETS ON THEIR BACKS, THEY MUST STRATEGIZE TO OVERCOME THEIR WEAKNESSES. THE TIME HAS COME TO CARRY OUT THEIR PLANS...!

Killua

GON'S FRIEND. ON A JOURNEY WITH GON TO FIND WHAT HE WANTS TO DO WITH HIS LIFE.

Biscuit

A 57-YEAR-OLD PRO HUNTER, SHE SEES POTENTIAL IN GON AND KILLUA.

Genthru

A.K.A. "THE BOMBER." HIS ABILITIES ARE COUNTDOWN AND LITTLE FLOWER.

HUNTER × HUNTER

Volume 18

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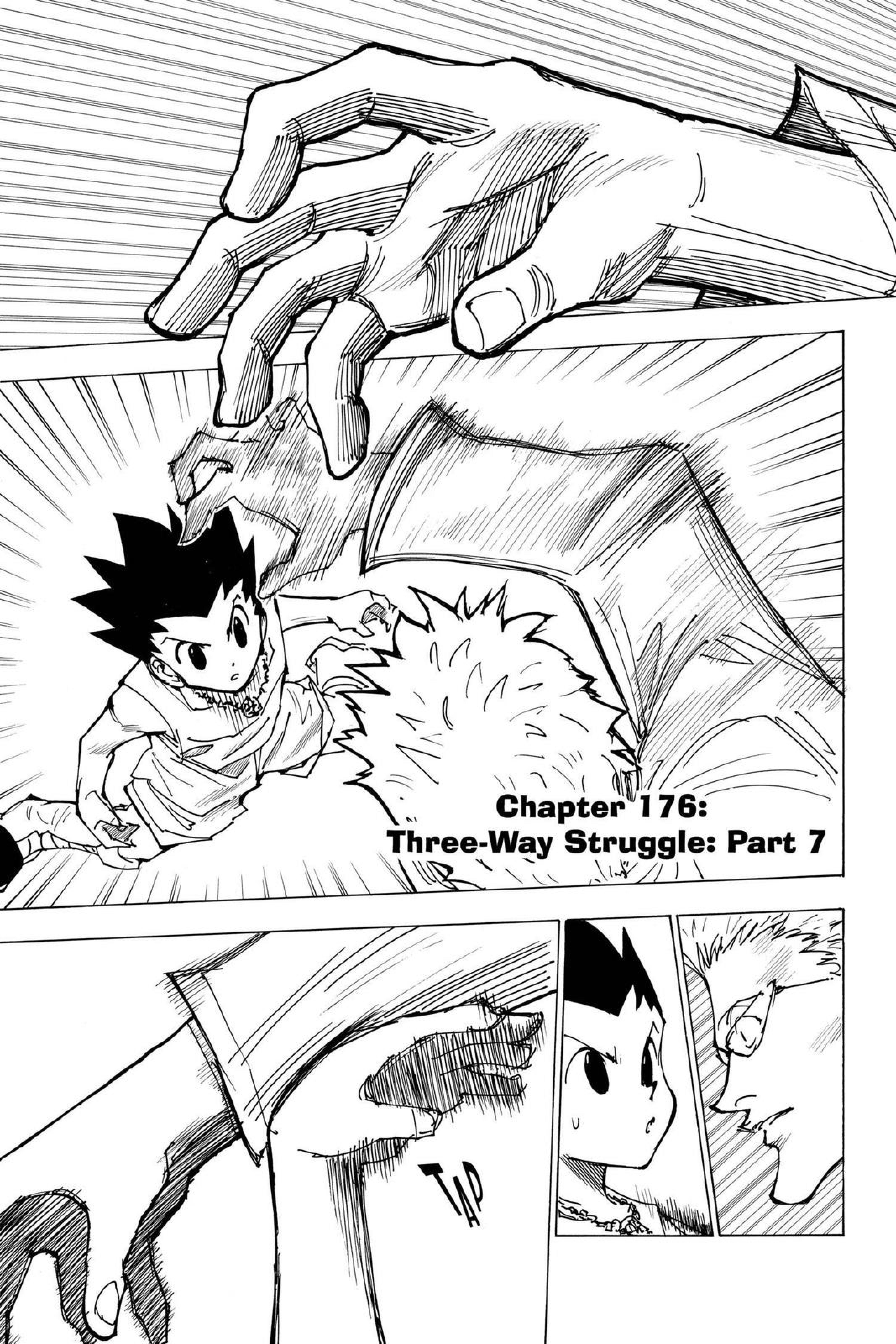
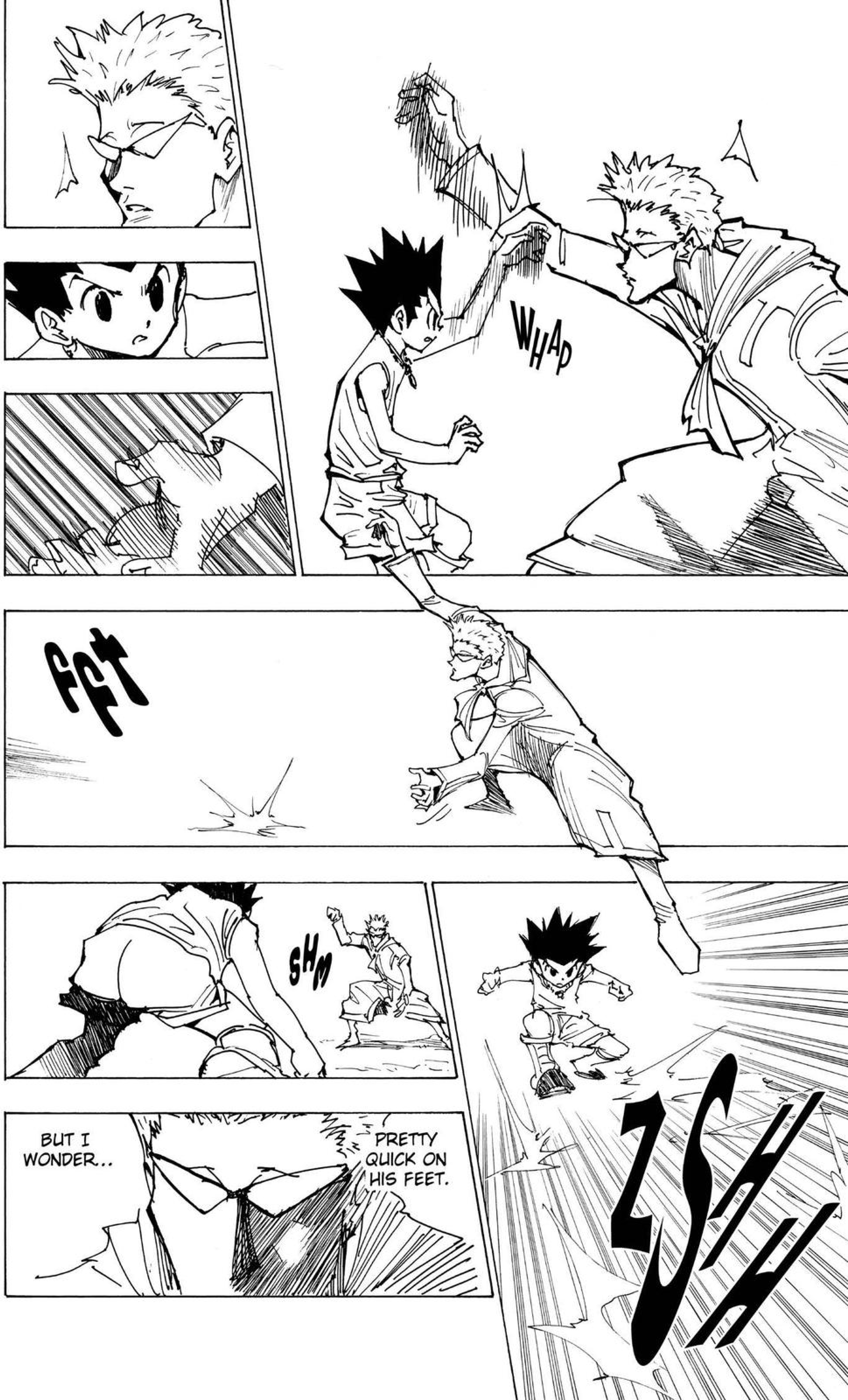
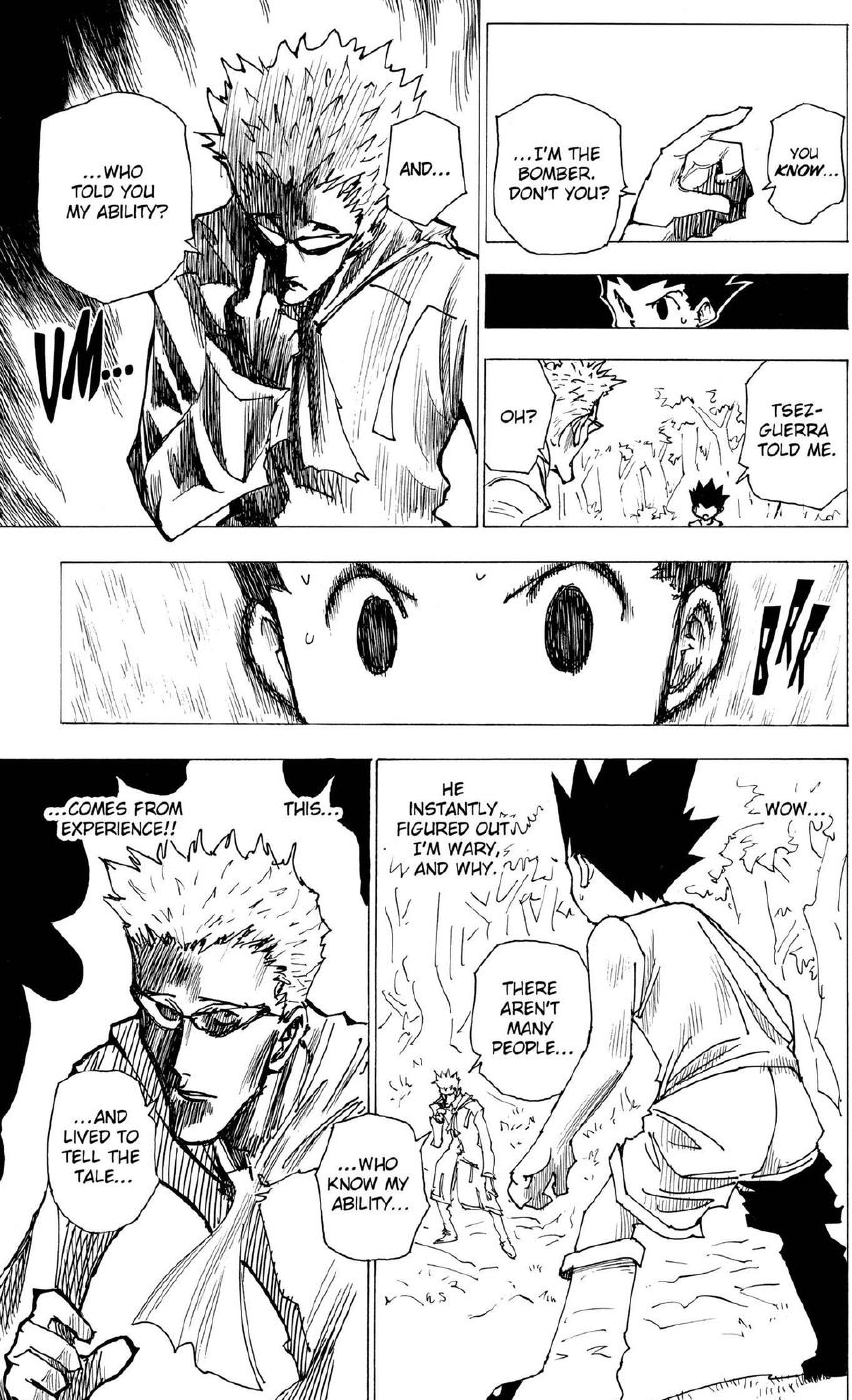
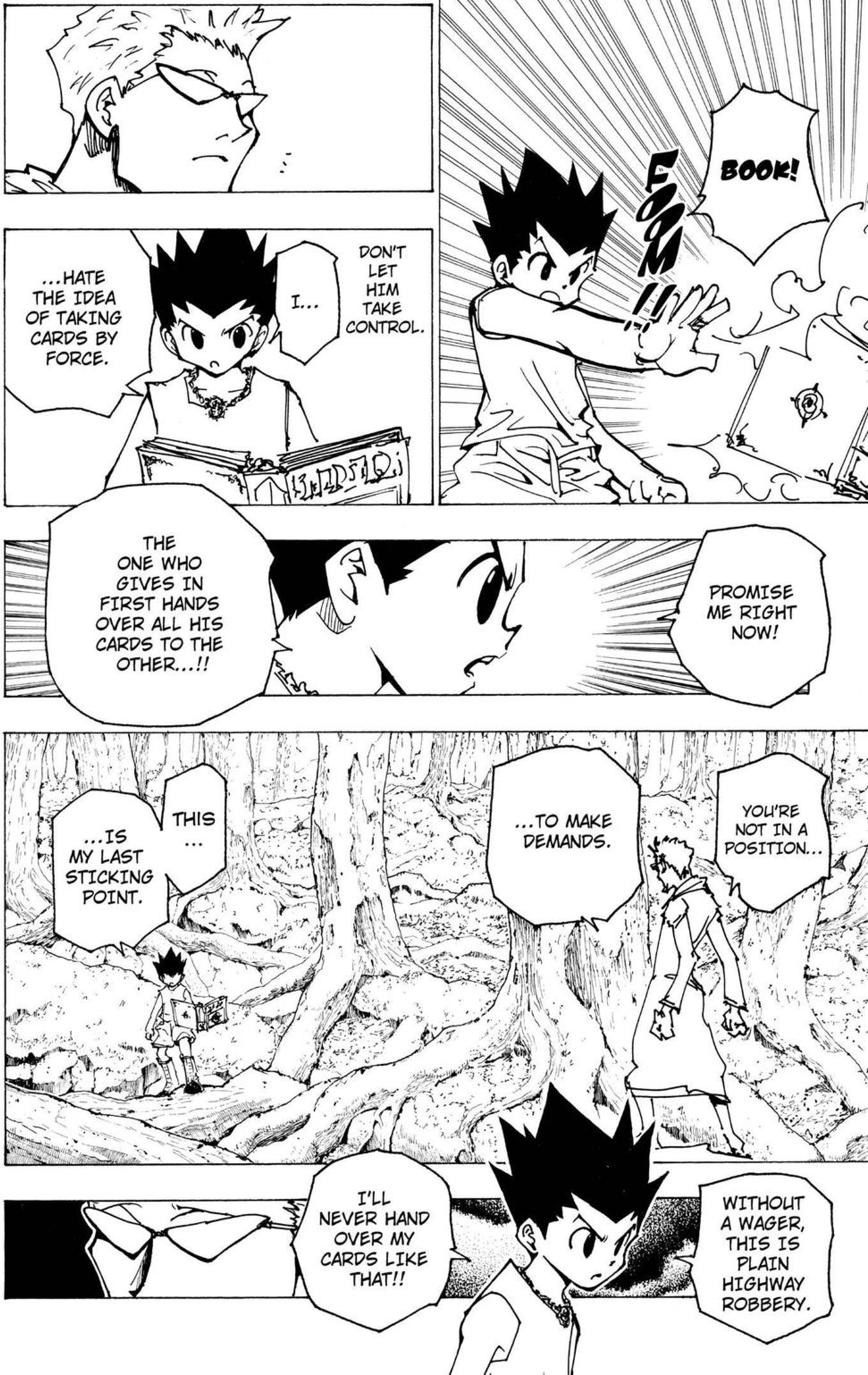
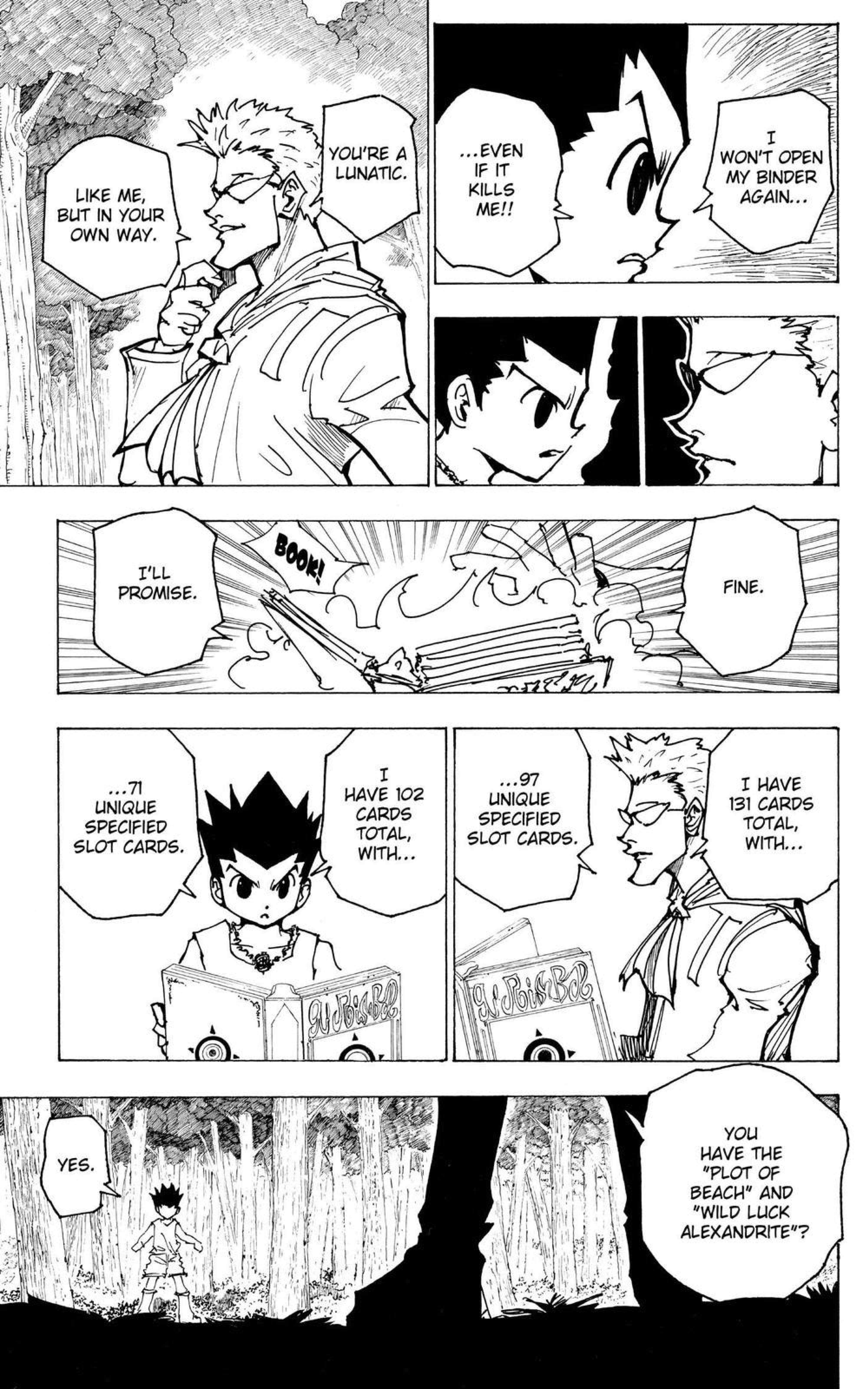
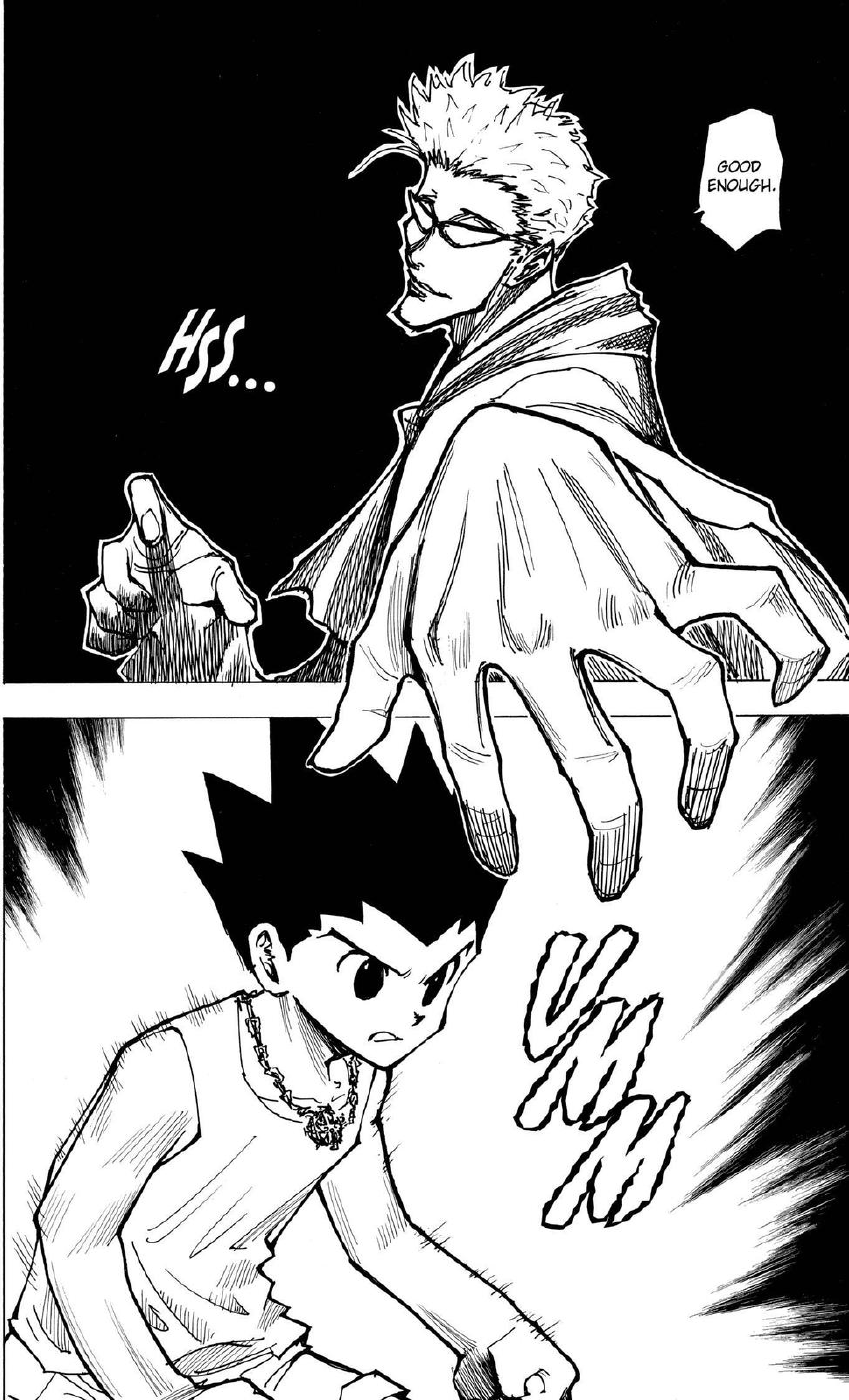


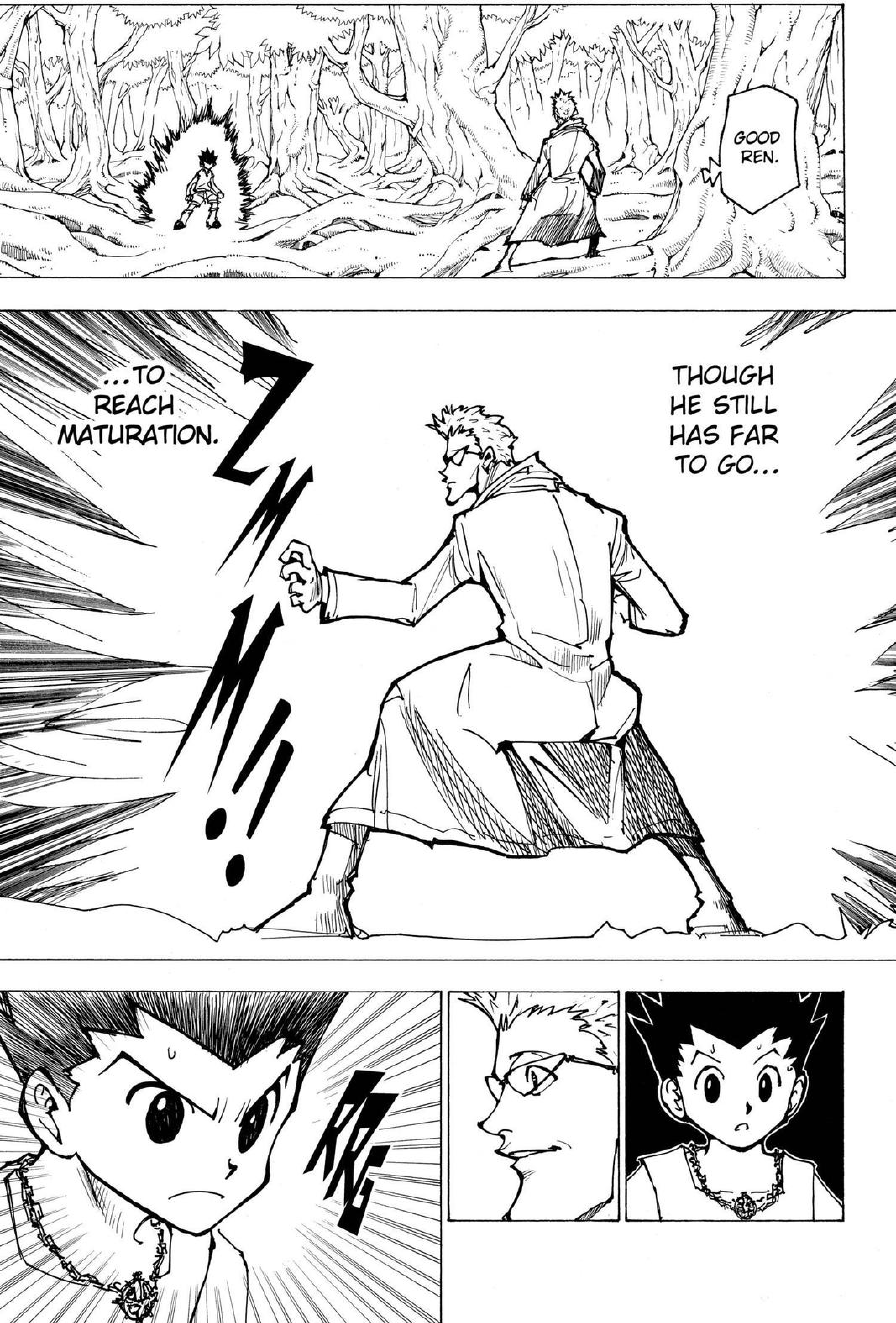

WHAP
FFT
ZSHH
SHM
PRETTY QUICK ON HIS FEET.
BUT I WONDER...

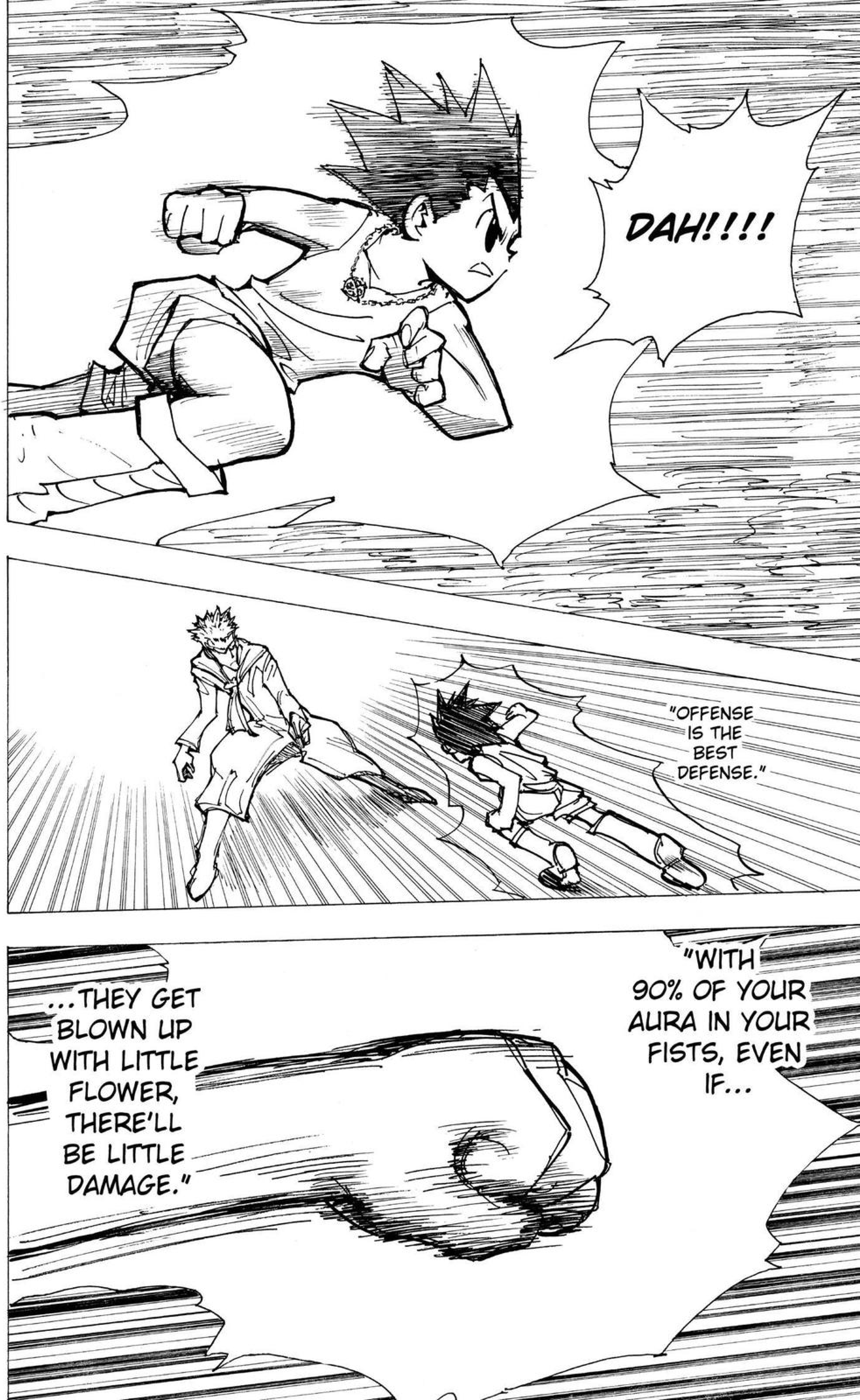

YOU *KNOW*...
...I'M THE BOMBER. DON'T YOU?
AND...
...WHO TOLD YOU MY ABILITY?
UM...
TSEZ-GUERRA TOLD ME.
OH?
BRR
WOW...
HE INSTANTLY FIGURED OUT I'M WARY, AND WHY.
THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE...
...WHO KNOW MY ABILITY...
...AND LIVED TO TELL THE TALE...
THIS...
...COMES FROM EXPERIENCE!!

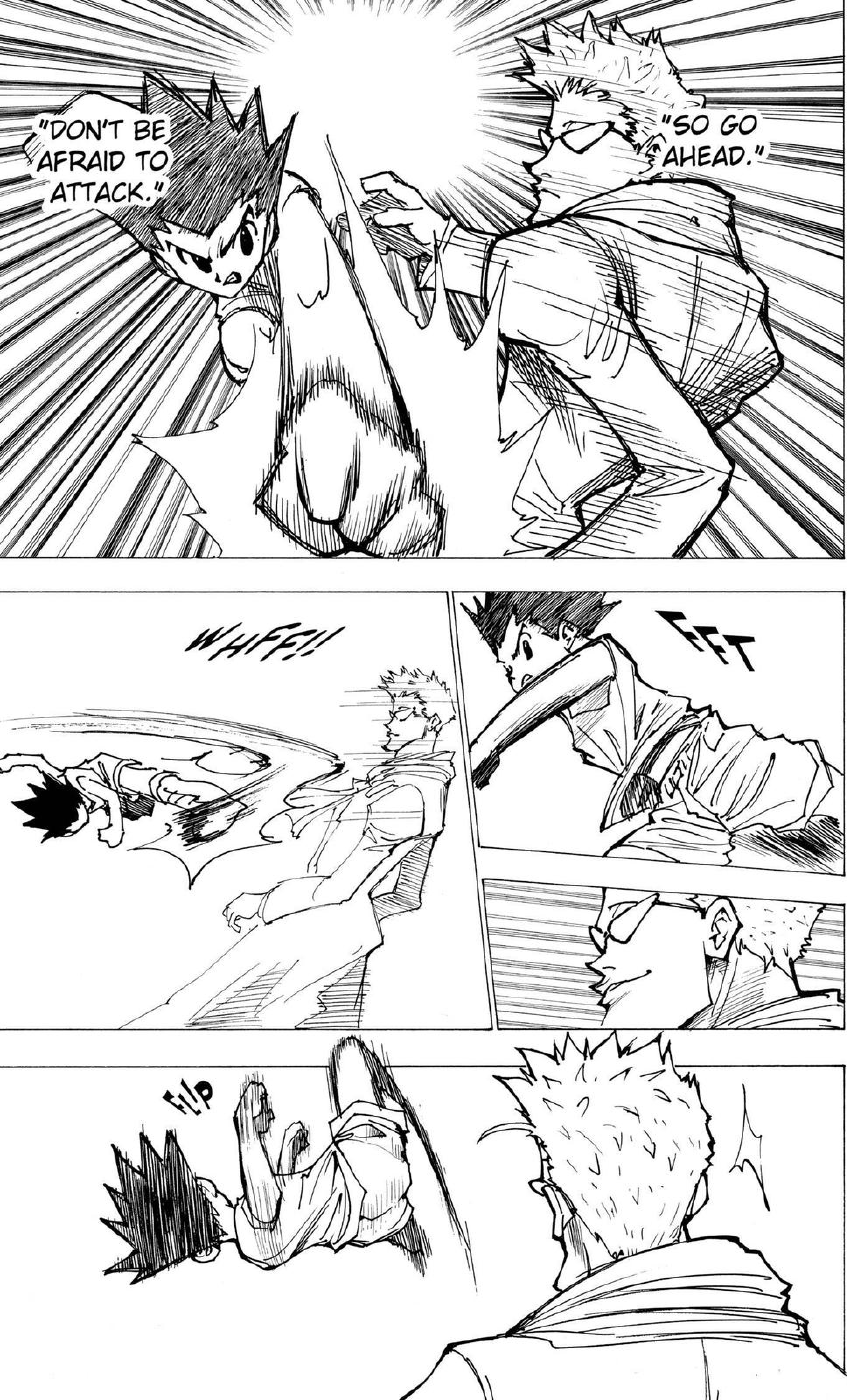

BOOK!
FOOM!!
DON'T LET HIM TAKE CONTROL.
I...
...HATE THE IDEA OF TAKING CARDS BY FORCE.
PROMISE ME RIGHT NOW!
THE ONE WHO GIVES IN FIRST HANDS OVER ALL HIS CARDS TO THE OTHER...!!
YOU'RE NOT IN A POSITION...
...TO MAKE DEMANDS.
THIS...
...IS MY LAST STICKING POINT.
WITHOUT A WAGER, THIS IS PLAIN HIGHWAY ROBBERY.
I'LL NEVER HAND OVER MY CARDS LIKE THAT!!

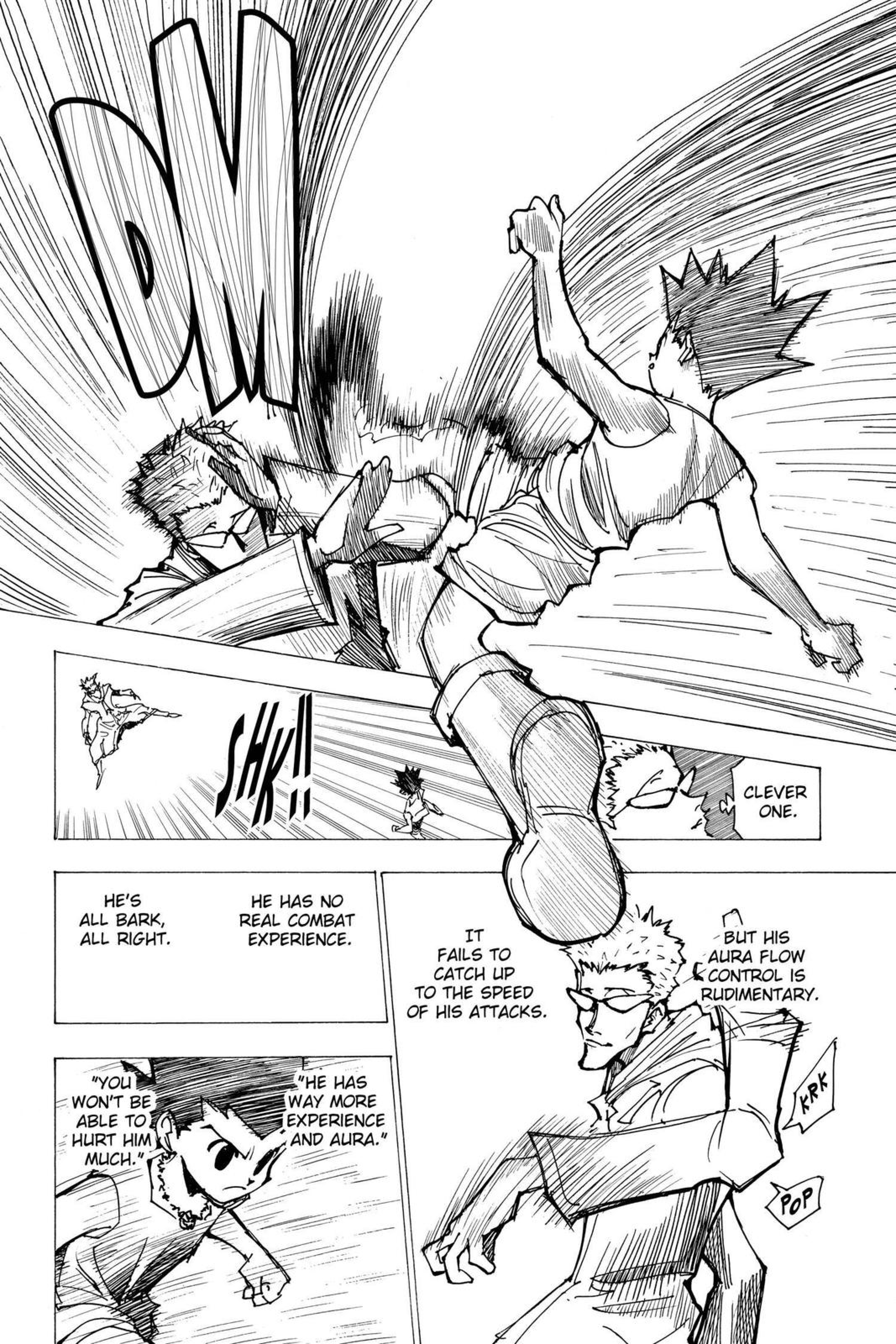

I WON'T OPEN MY BINDER AGAIN...
...EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!!
YOU'RE A LUNATIC.
LIKE ME, BUT IN YOUR OWN WAY.
FINE.
BOOK!
I'LL PROMISE.
I HAVE 131 CARDS TOTAL, WITH...
...97 UNIQUE SPECIFIED SLOT CARDS.
I HAVE 102 CARDS TOTAL, WITH...
...71 UNIQUE SPECIFIED SLOT CARDS.
YOU HAVE THE "PLOT OF BEACH" AND "WILD LUCK ALEXANDRITE"?
YES.

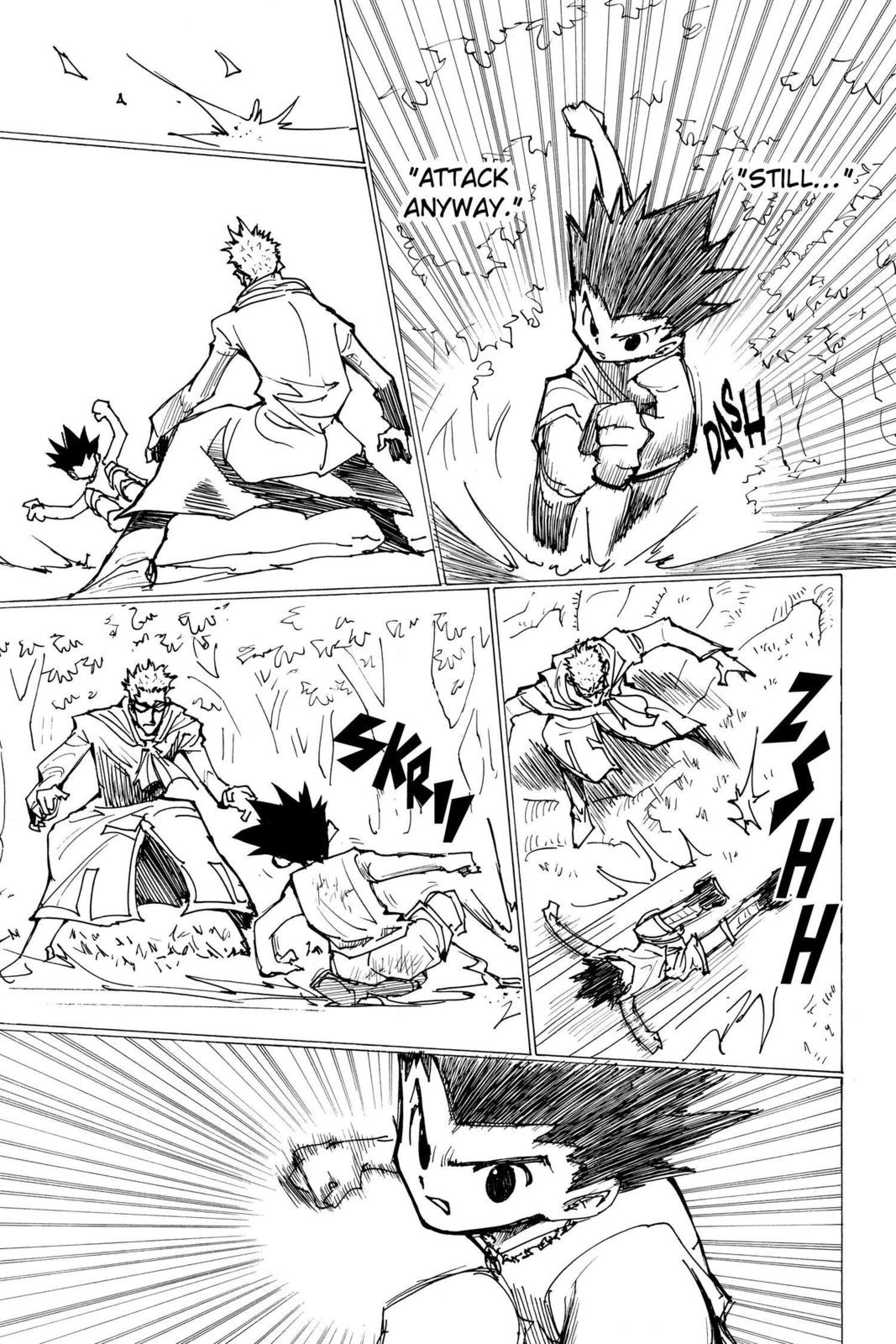

GOOD ENOUGH.
HSS...
VMM

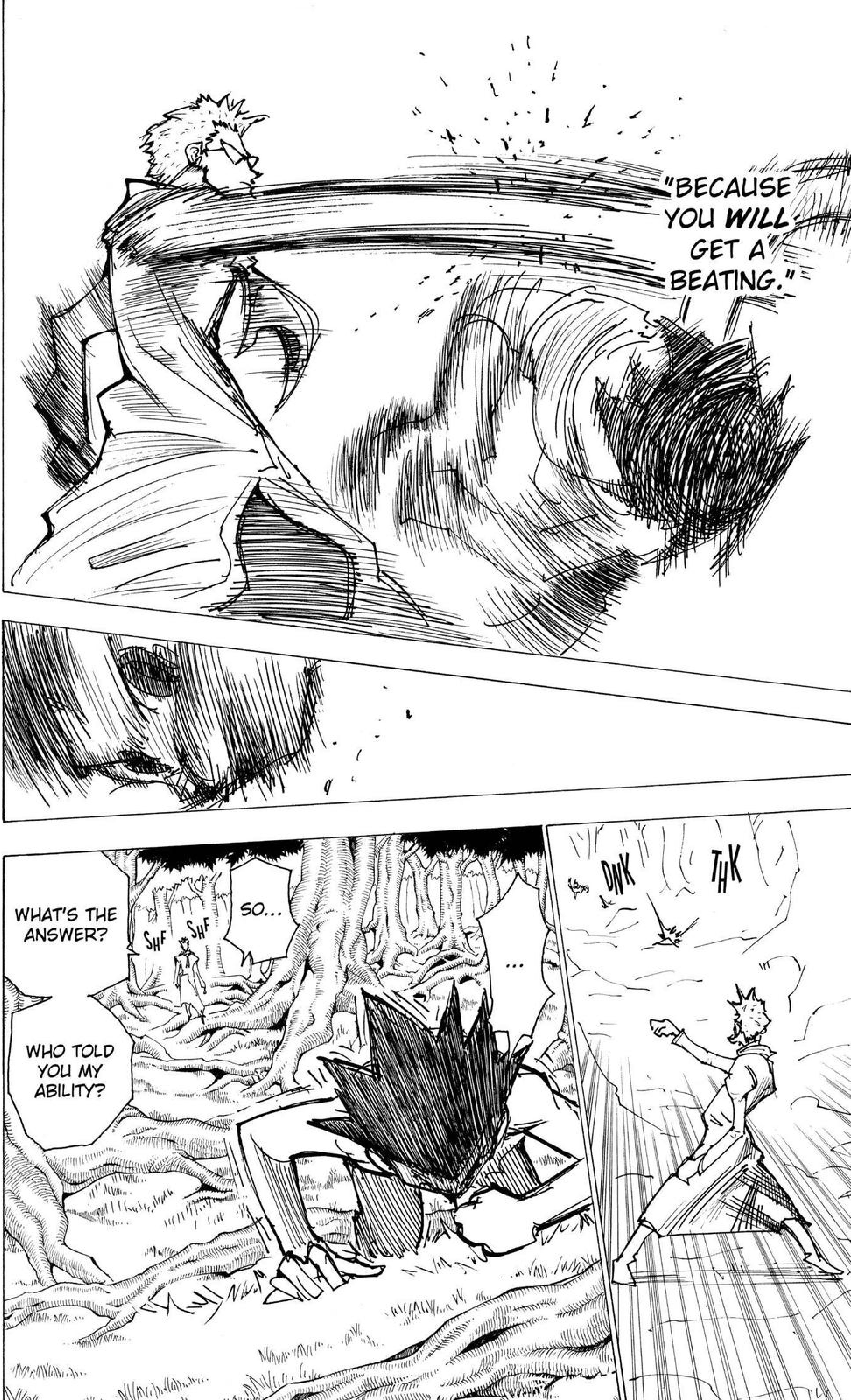

GOOD REN.
THOUGH HE STILL HAS FAR TO GO...
...TO REACH MATURATION.
ZMM!!
RRG

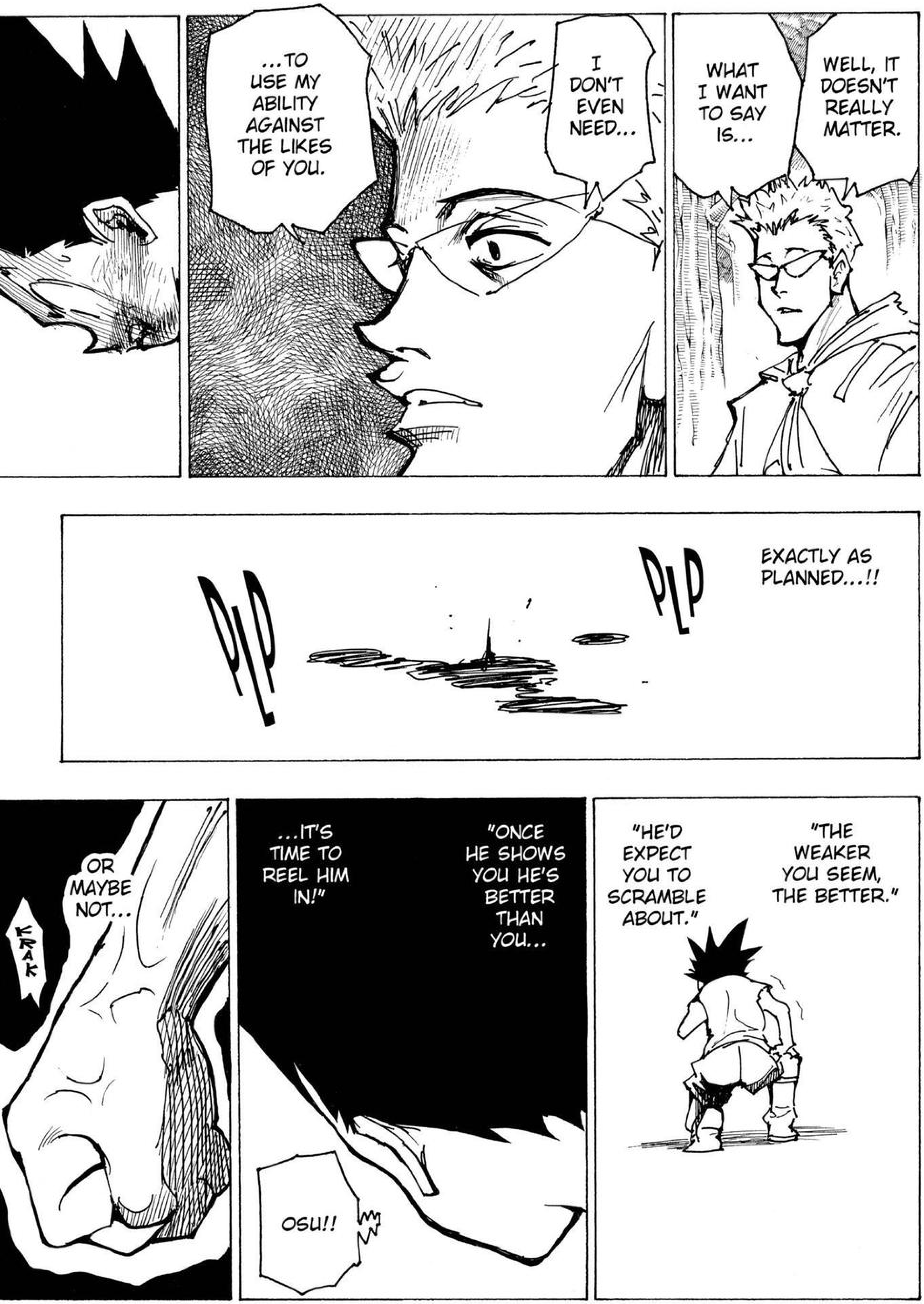

DAH!!!!
"OFFENSE IS THE BEST DEFENSE."
"WITH 90% OF YOUR AURA IN YOUR FISTS, EVEN IF...
...THEY GET BLOWN UP WITH LITTLE FLOWER, THERE'LL BE LITTLE DAMAGE."

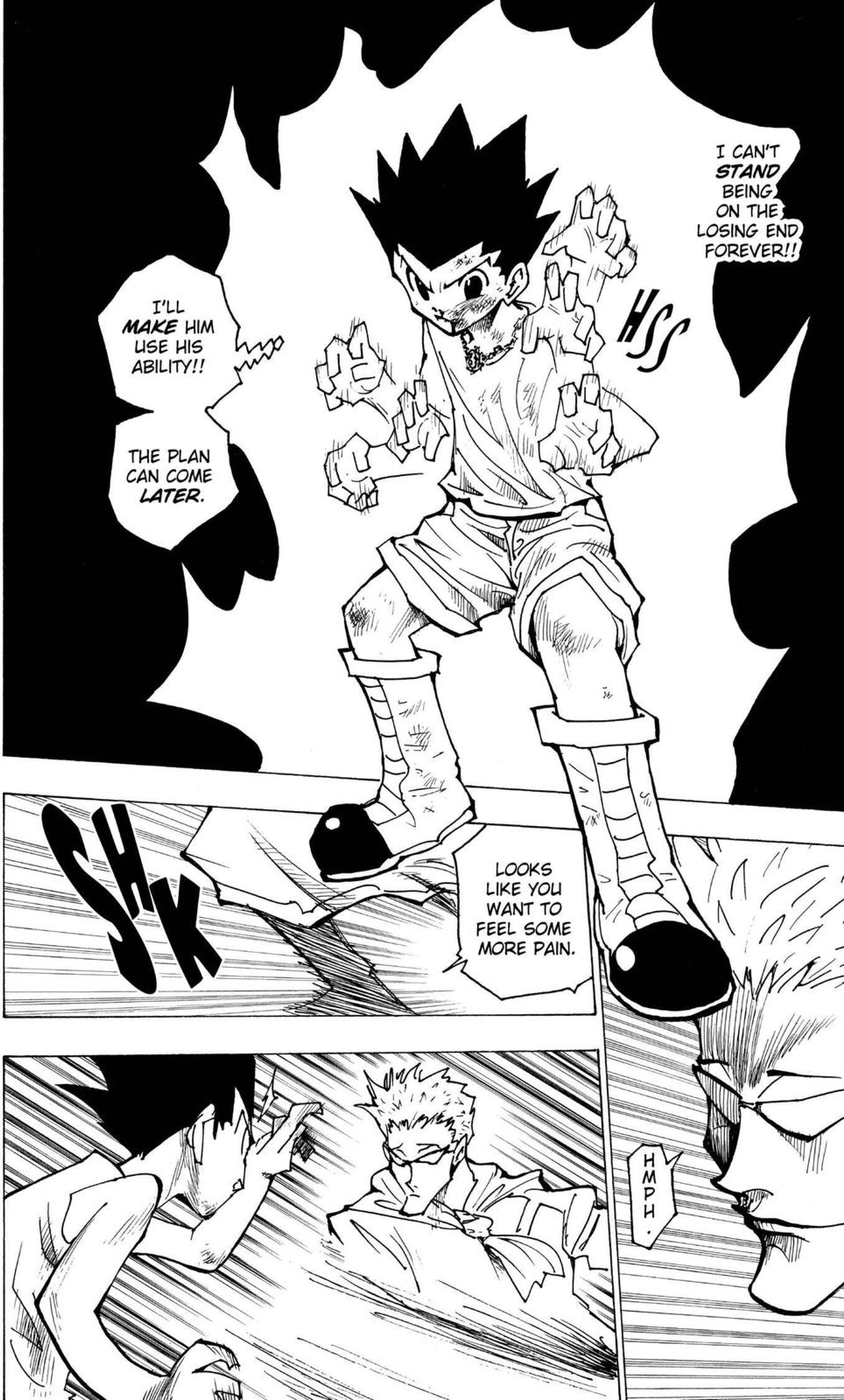

"SO GO AHEAD."
"DON'T BE AFRAID TO ATTACK."
FFT
WHIFF!!
FLIP

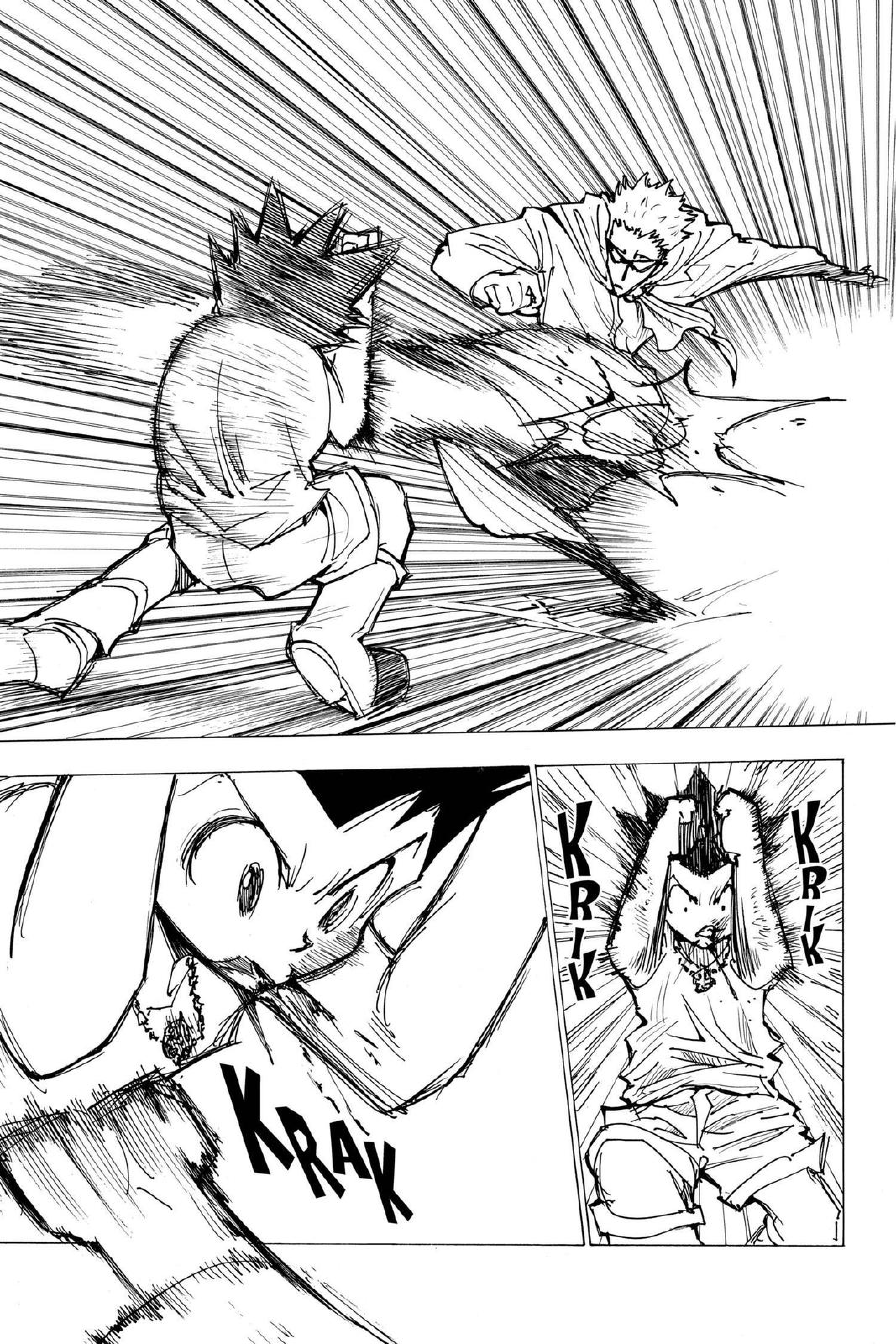

DM
SHK!!
CLEVER ONE.
BUT HIS AURA FLOW CONTROL IS RUDIMENTARY.
IT FAILS TO CATCH UP TO THE SPEED OF HIS ATTACKS.
HE HAS NO REAL COMBAT EXPERIENCE.
HE'S ALL BARK, ALL RIGHT.
KRK
POP
"HE HAS WAY MORE EXPERIENCE AND AURA."
"YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HURT HIM MUCH."


"STILL..."
"ATTACK ANYWAY."
DASH
ZSHHH
SKRII


"BECAUSE YOU **WILL** GET A BEATING."
DNK
THK
...
SO...
WHAT'S THE ANSWER?
SHF
SHF
WHO TOLD YOU MY ABILITY?

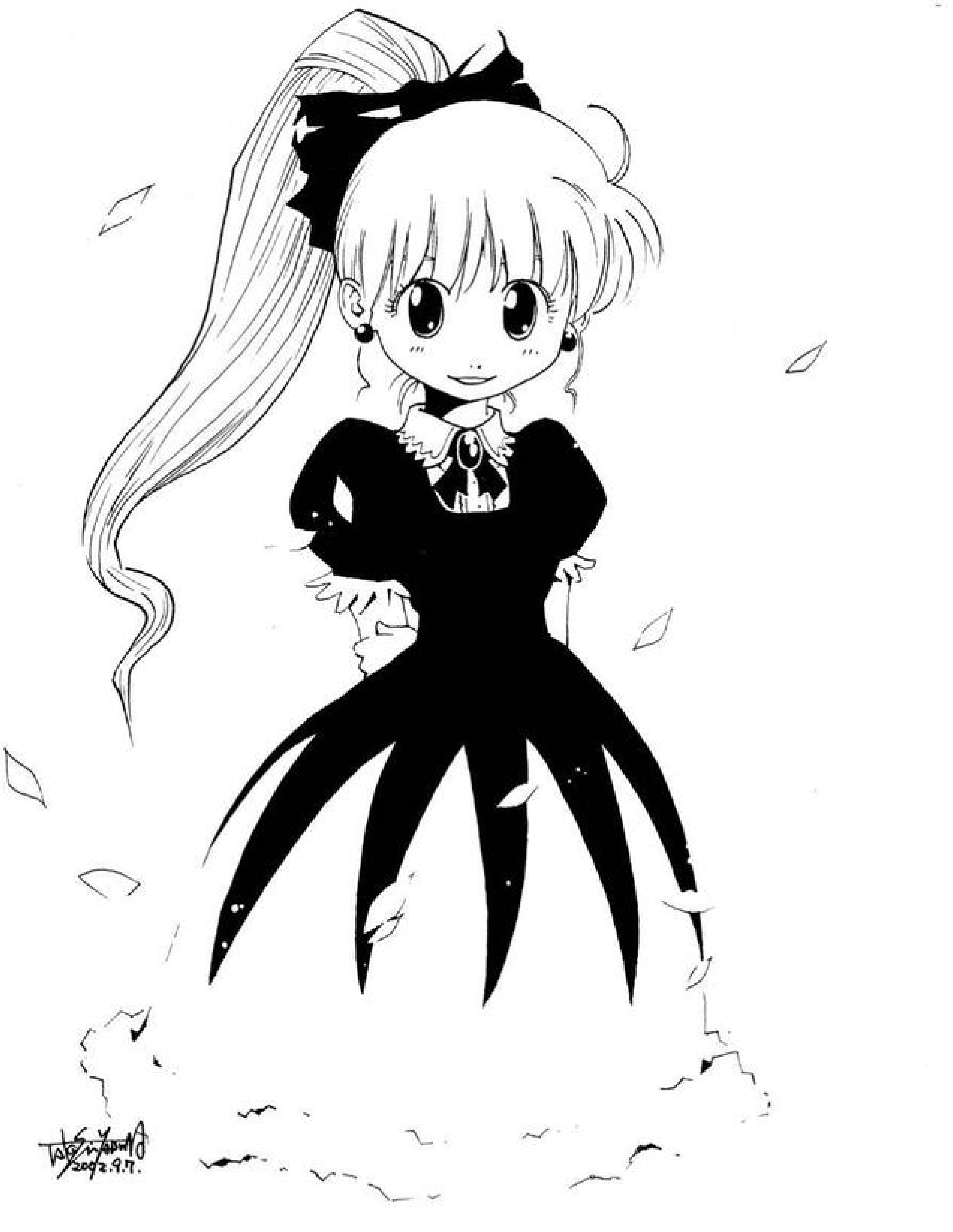

WELL, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.
WHAT I WANT TO SAY IS...
I DON'T EVEN NEED...
...TO USE MY ABILITY AGAINST THE LIKES OF YOU.
EXACTLY AS PLANNED...!!
PLP
PLP
"THE WEAKER YOU SEEM, THE BETTER."
"HE'D EXPECT YOU TO SCRAMBLE ABOUT."
"ONCE HE SHOWS YOU HE'S BETTER THAN YOU...
...IT'S TIME TO REEL HIM IN!"
OSU!!
OR MAYBE NOT...
KRAK


I CAN'T **STAND** BEING ON THE LOSING END FOREVER!!
HSS
I'LL **MAKE** HIM USE HIS ABILITY!!
THE PLAN CAN COME **LATER**.
LOOKS LIKE YOU WANT TO FEEL SOME MORE PAIN.
SHK
HMPH.

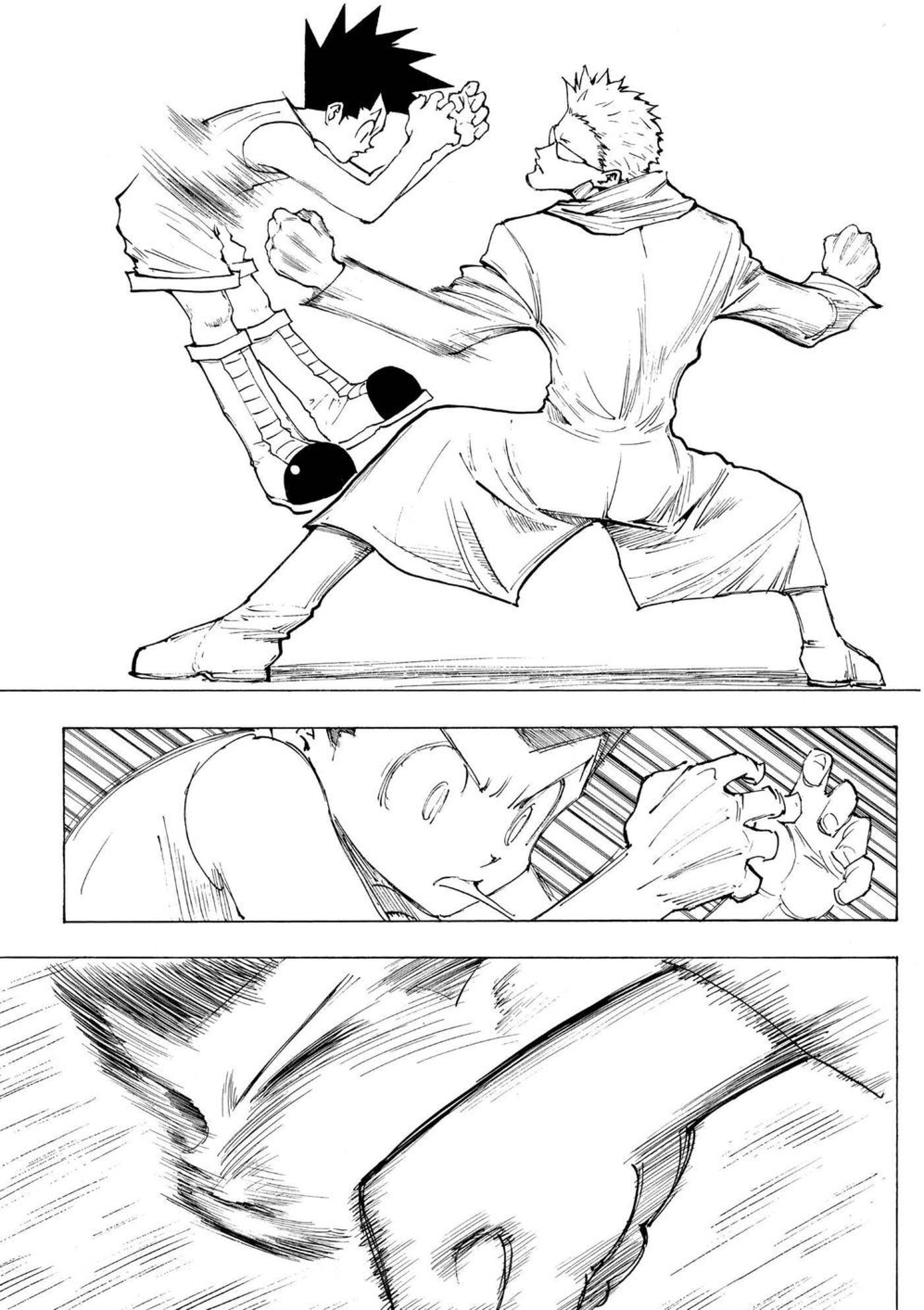

KRIK
KRIK
KRAK

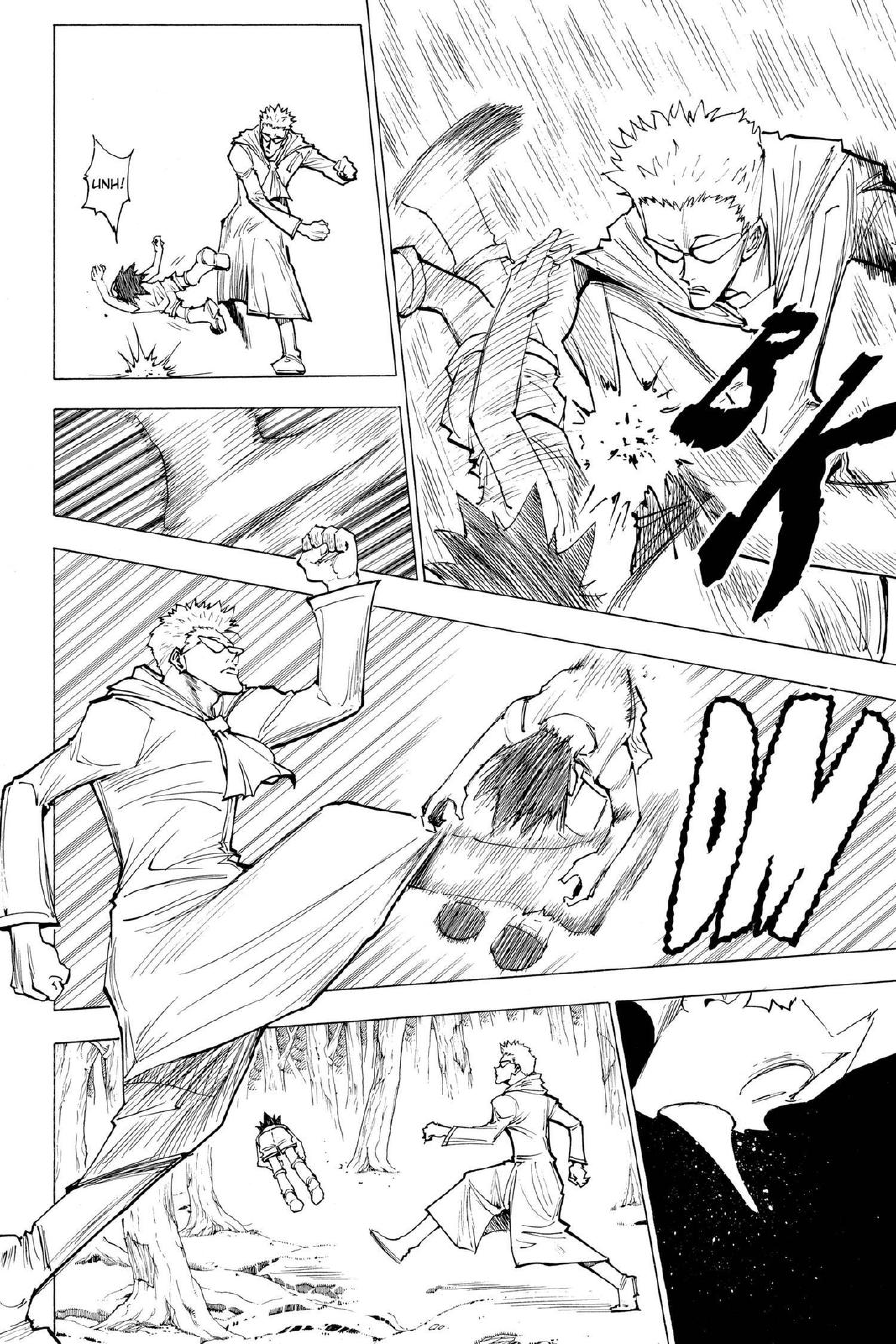
DRAW WITHOUT LOOKING: PART 6

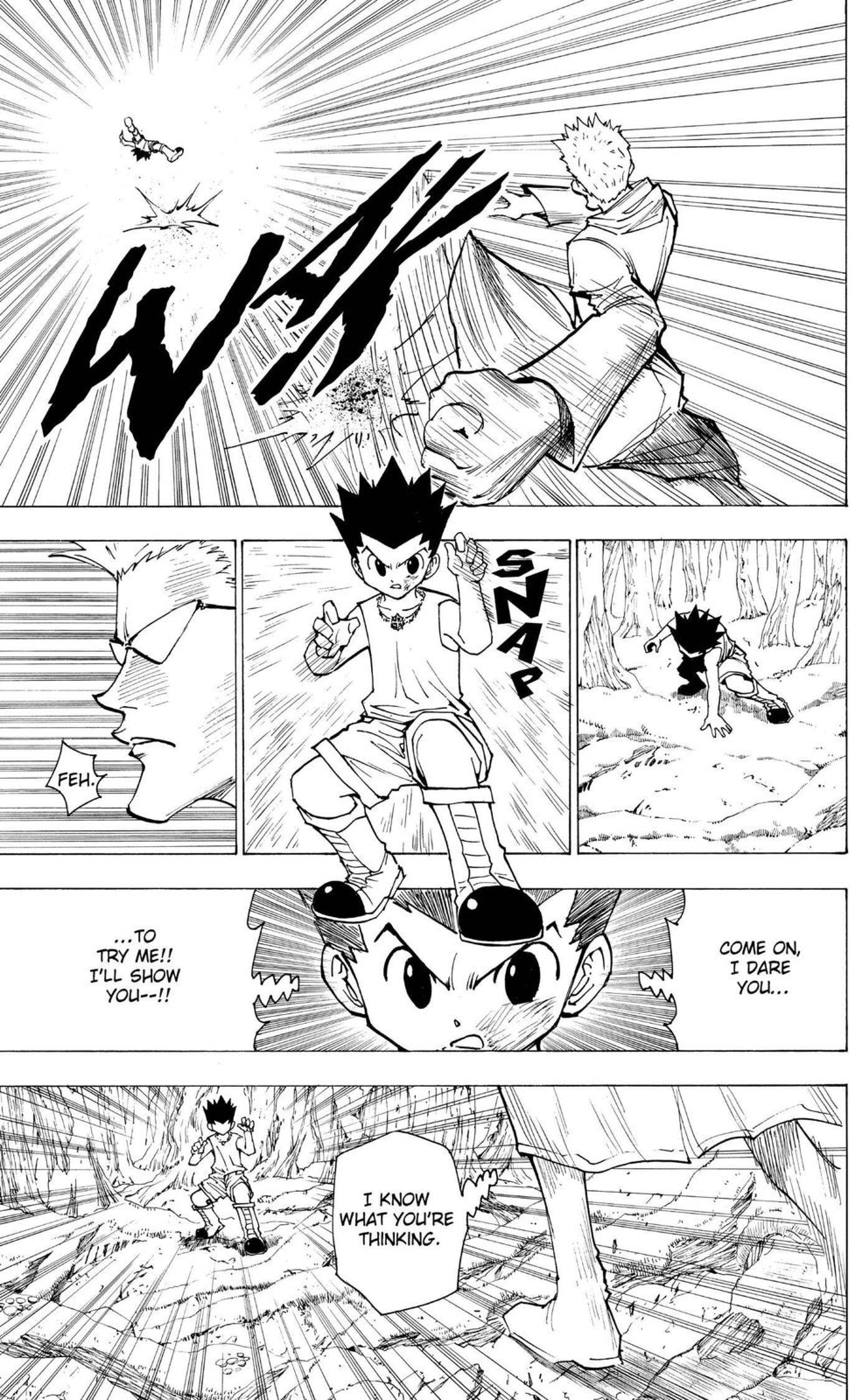
BISCUIT

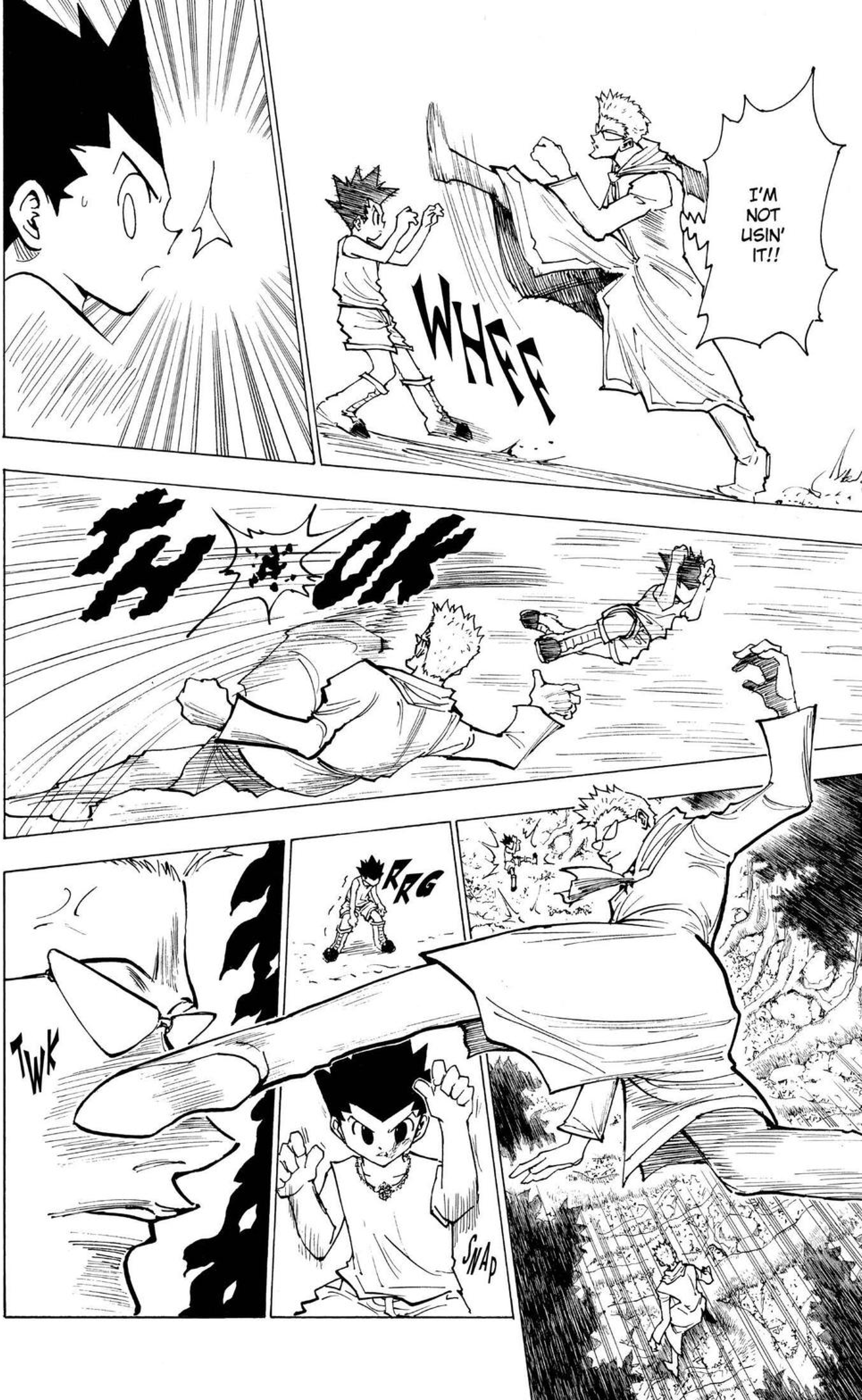


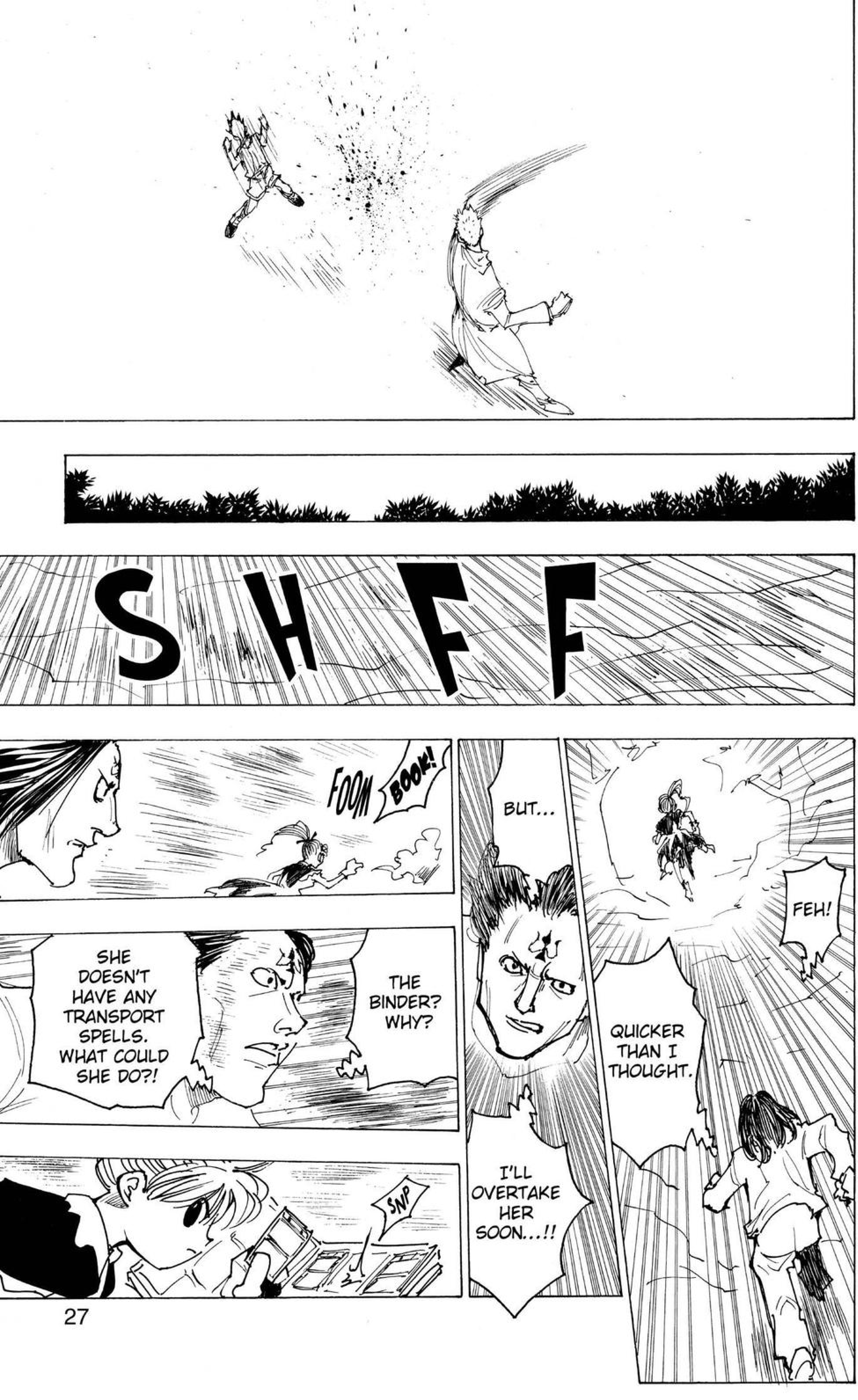
Chapter 177:
Three-Way Struggle:
Part 8

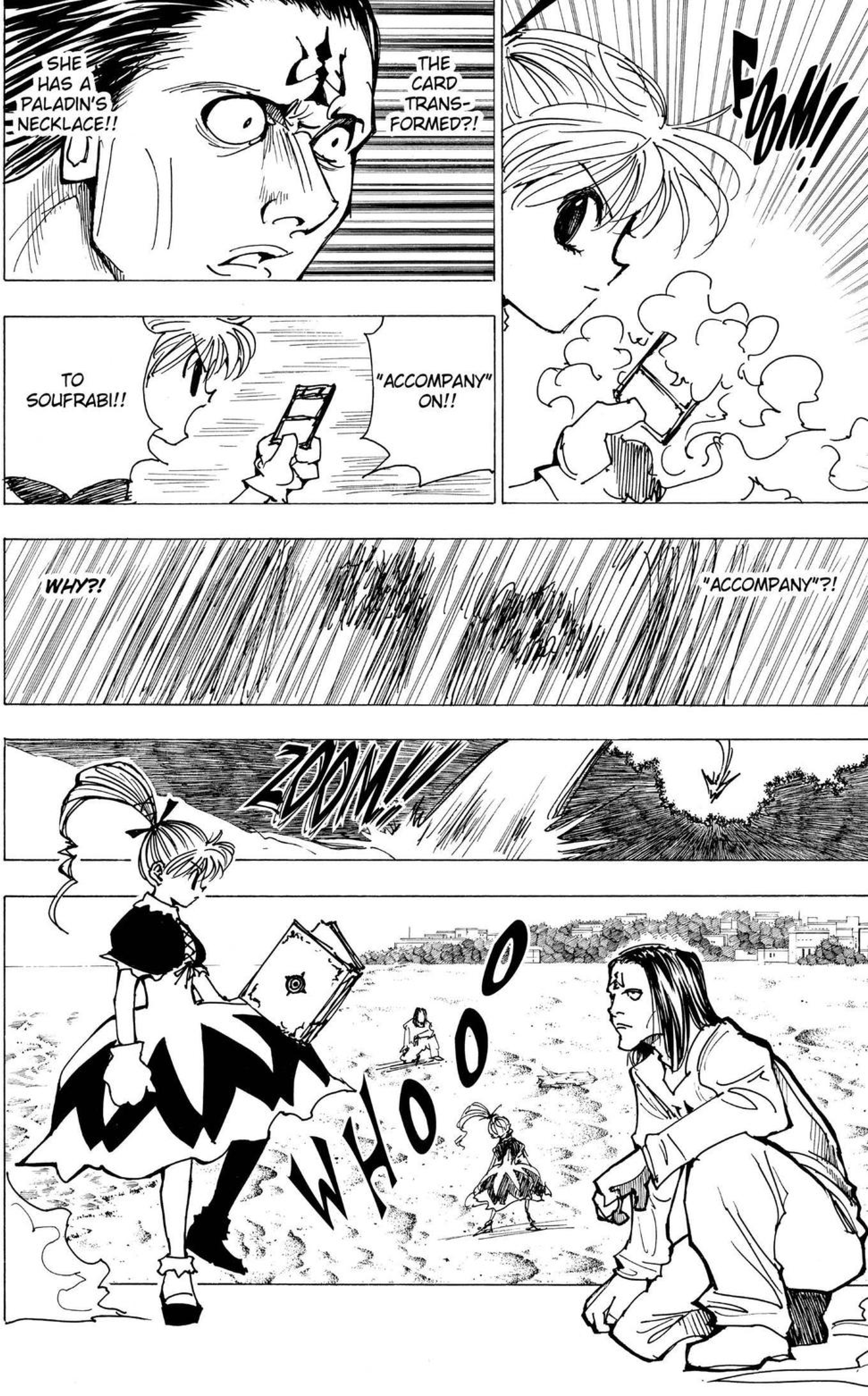


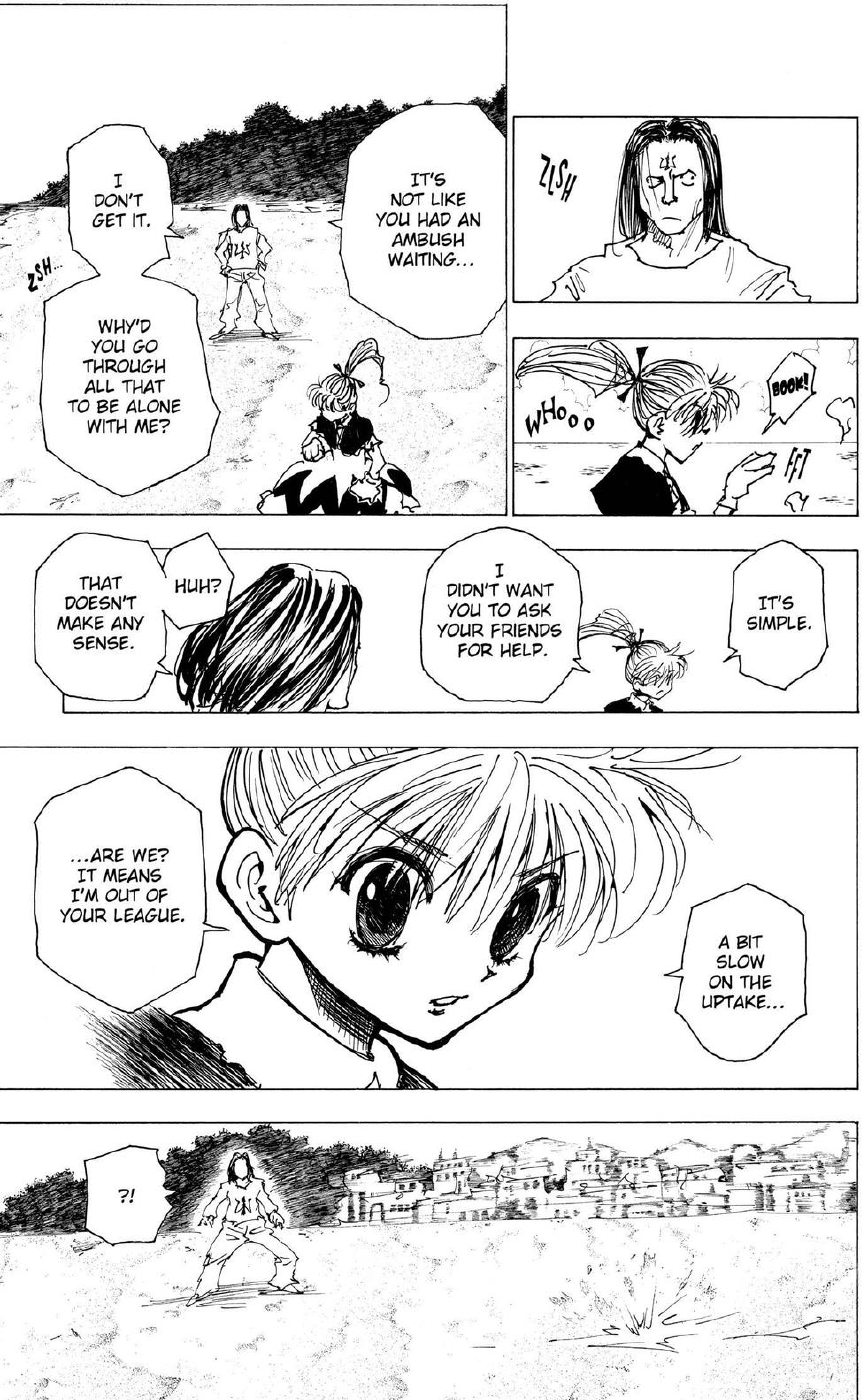

BK
UNH!
DM

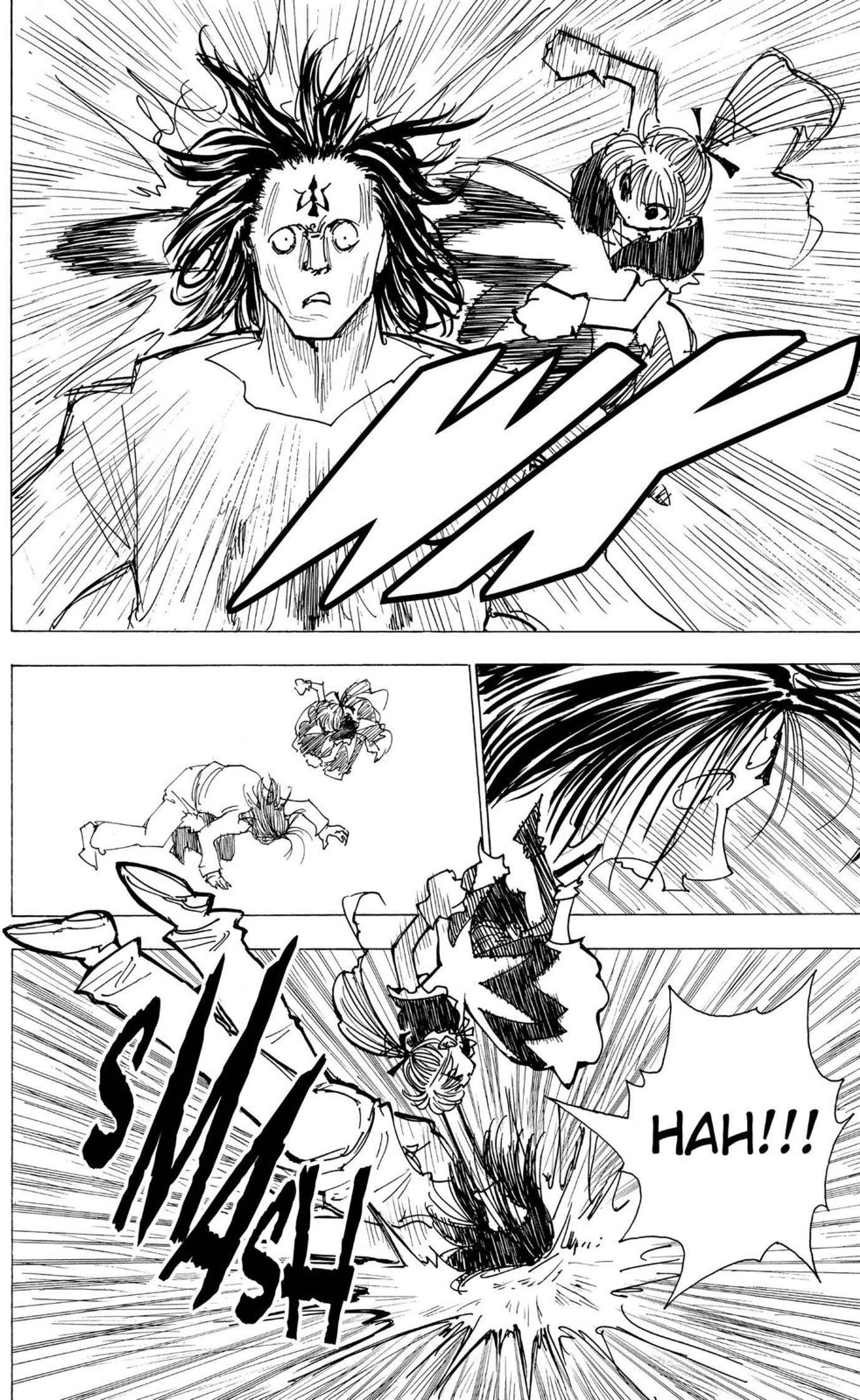

WAK
SNAP
FEH.
COME ON, I DARE YOU...
...TO TRY ME!! I'LL SHOW YOU--!!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

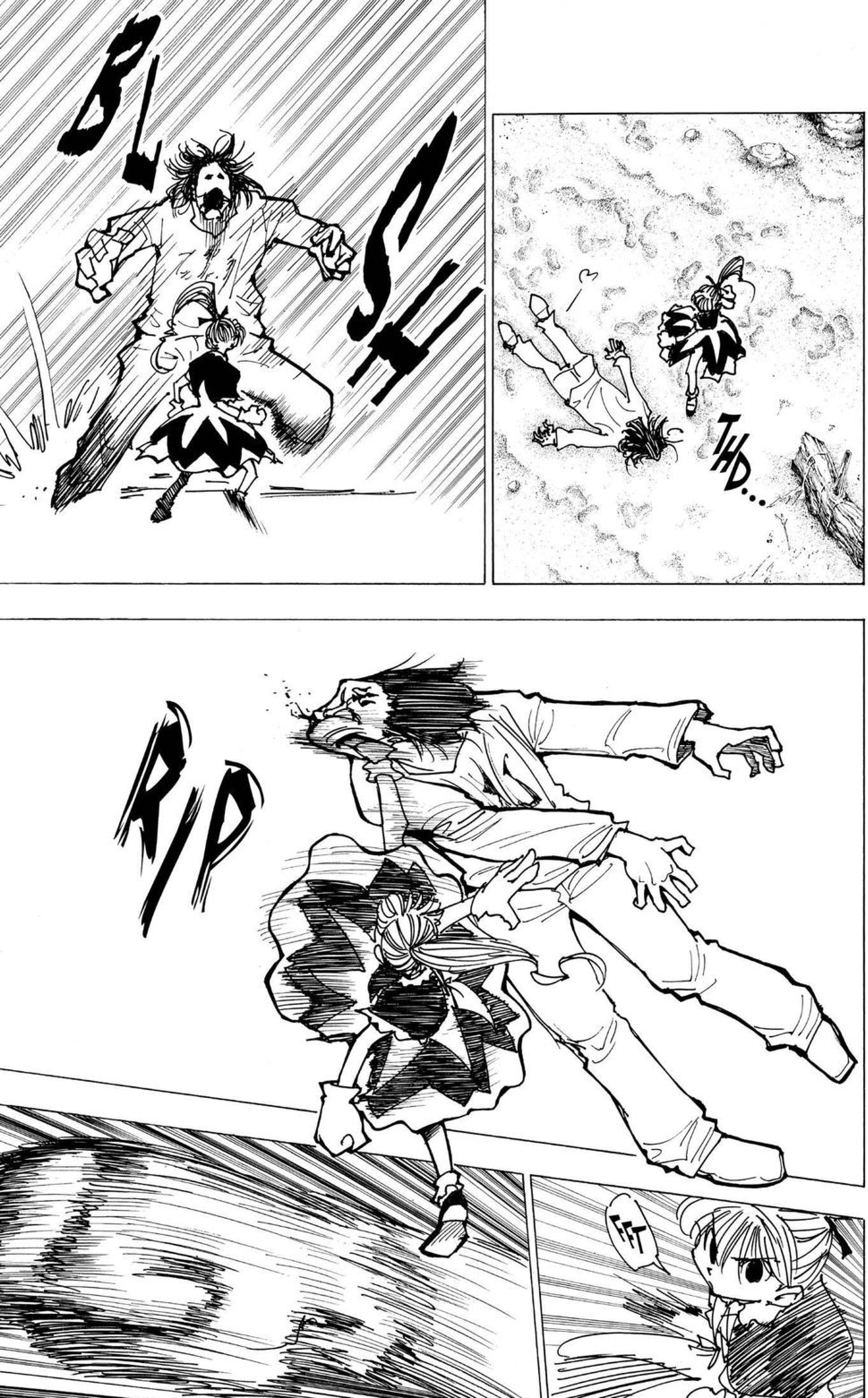

I'M NOT USIN' IT!!
WHFF
THWOK
RRG
SNAP
TWK

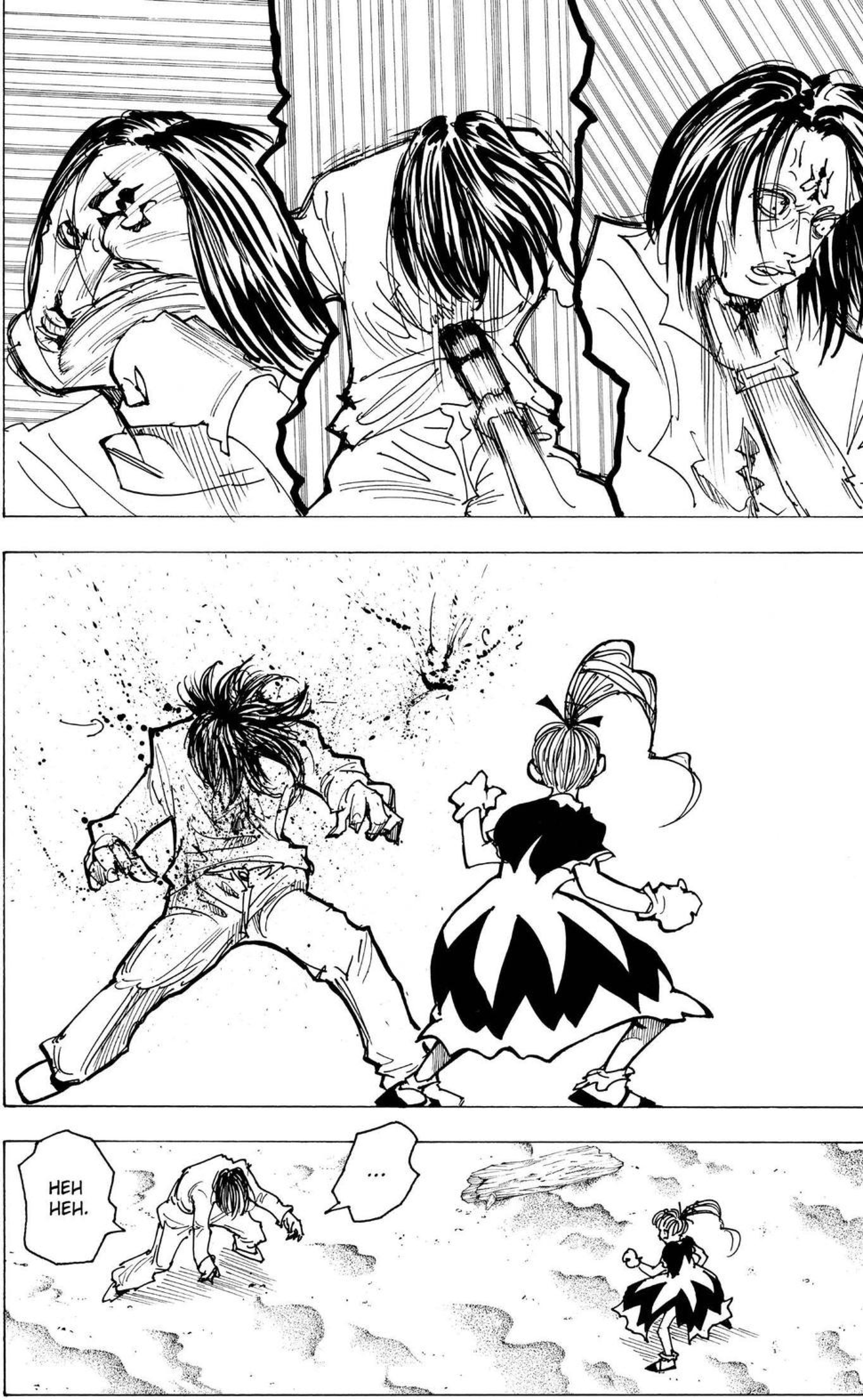

SHFF
FEH!
QUICKER THAN I THOUGHT.
BUT...
I'LL OVERTAKE HER SOON...!!
FOOM
BOOK!
THE BINDER? WHY?
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY TRANSPORT SPELLS. WHAT COULD SHE DO?!
SNP

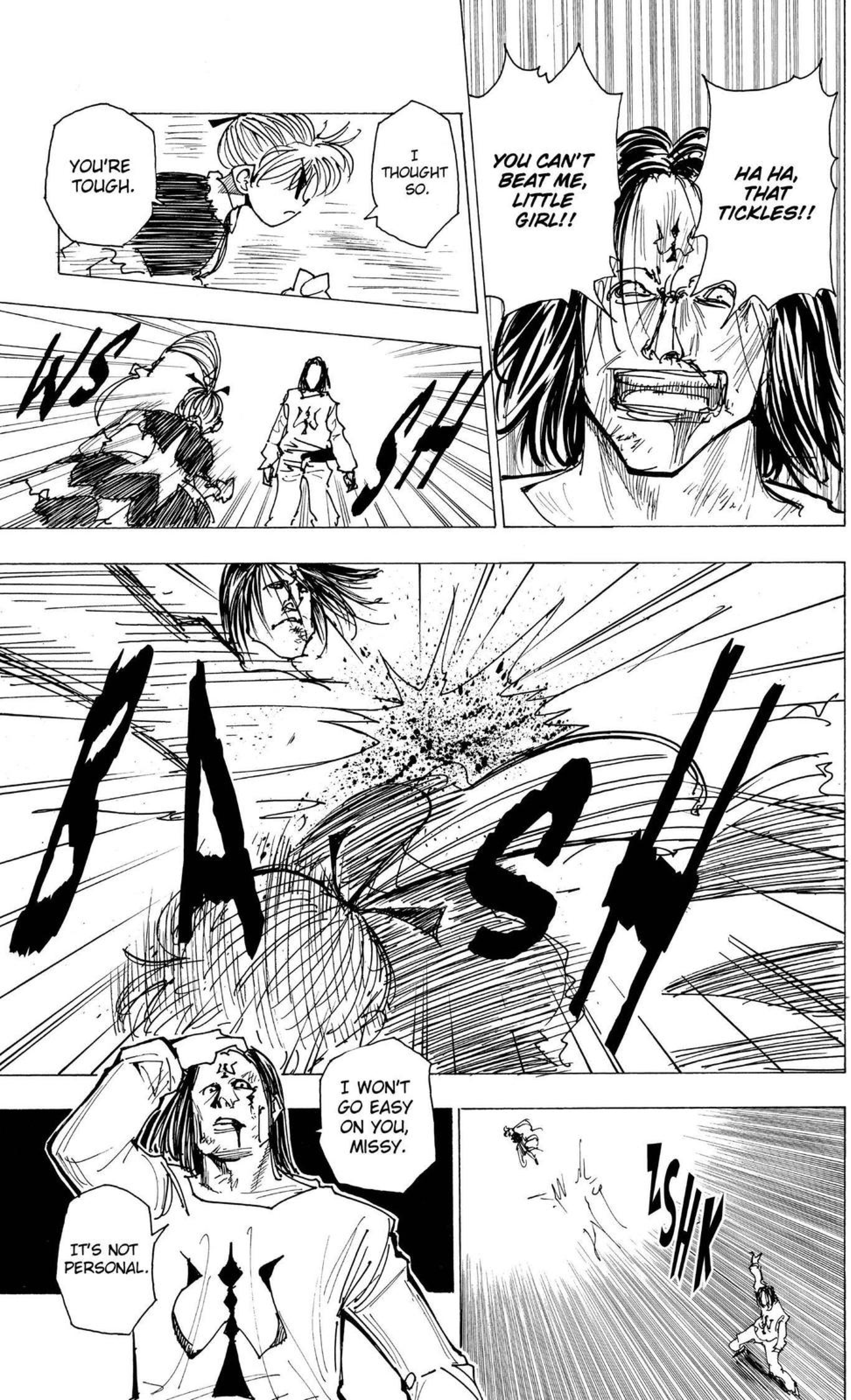

FOOM!!
THE CARD TRANSFORMED?!
SHE HAS A PALADIN'S NECKLACE!!
"ACCOMPANY" ON!!
TO SOUFRABI!!
"ACCOMPANY"?!
WHY?!
ZOOM!!
WHOOOO

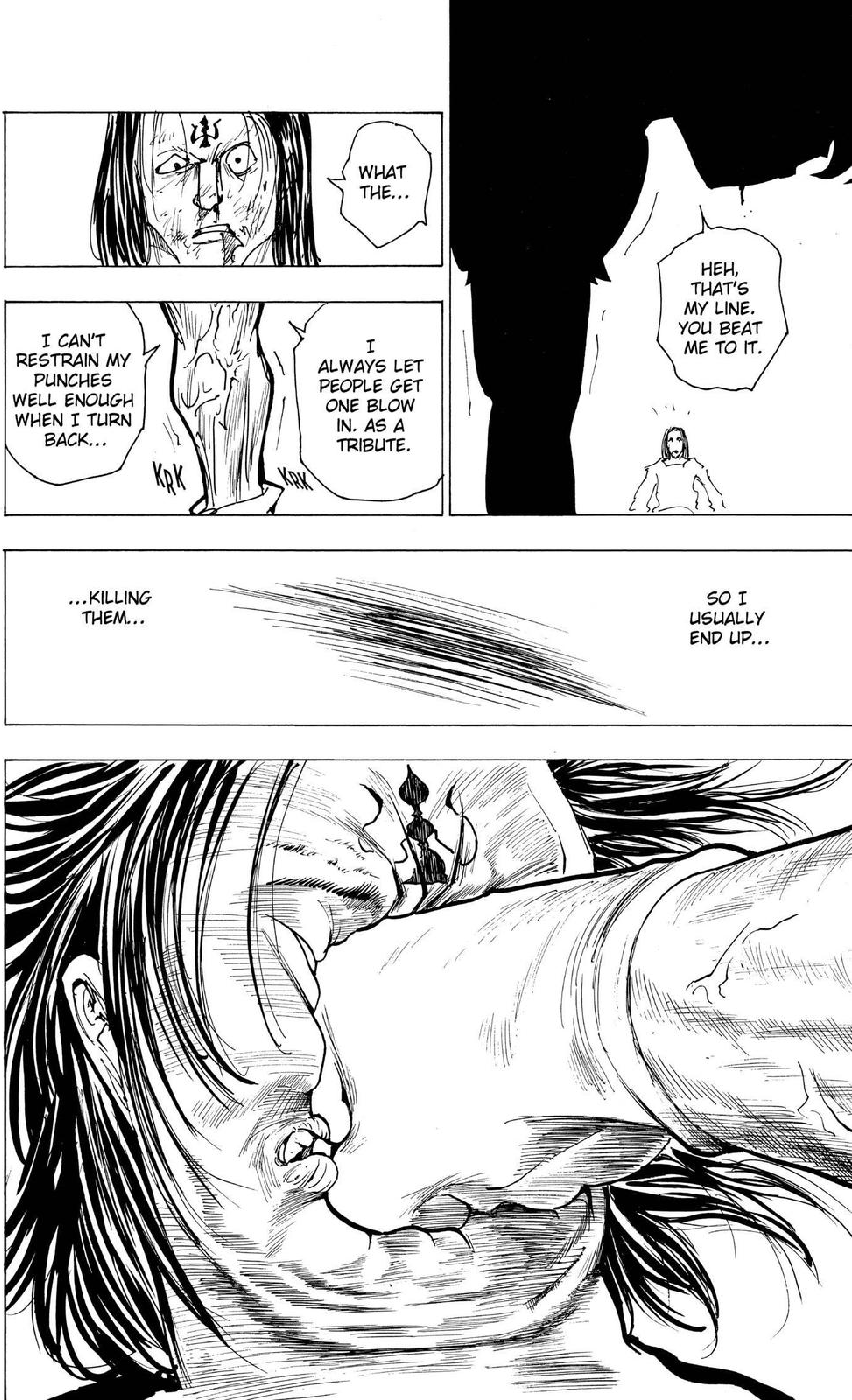

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAD AN AMBUSH WAITING...
I DON'T GET IT.
ZSH...
WHY'D YOU GO THROUGH ALL THAT TO BE ALONE WITH ME?
ZLSH
BOOK!
WHOOO
FFT
IT'S SIMPLE.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO ASK YOUR FRIENDS FOR HELP.
HUH?
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
A BIT SLOW ON THE UPTAKE...
...ARE WE? IT MEANS I'M OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE.
?!

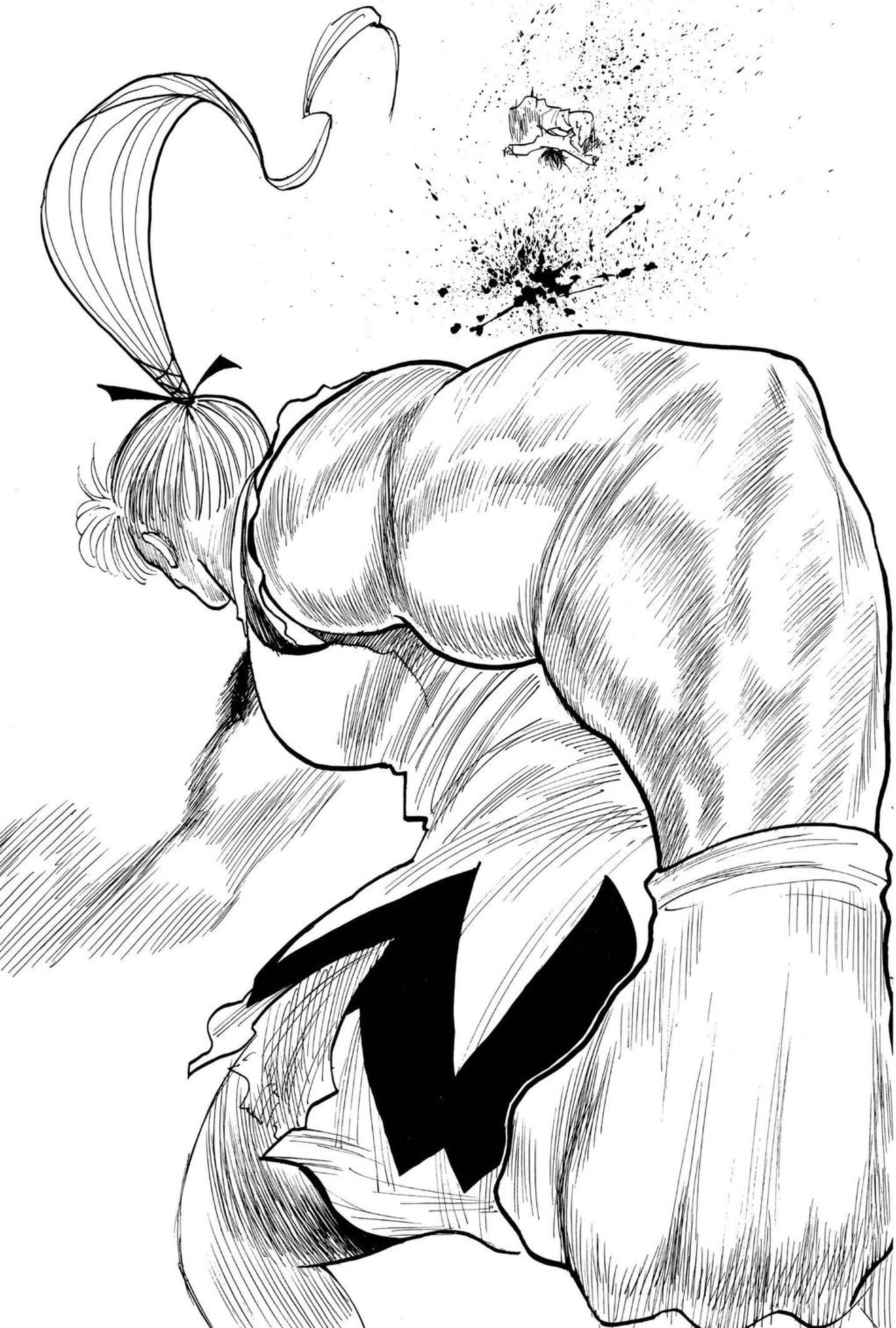

HAH!!!
SMASH

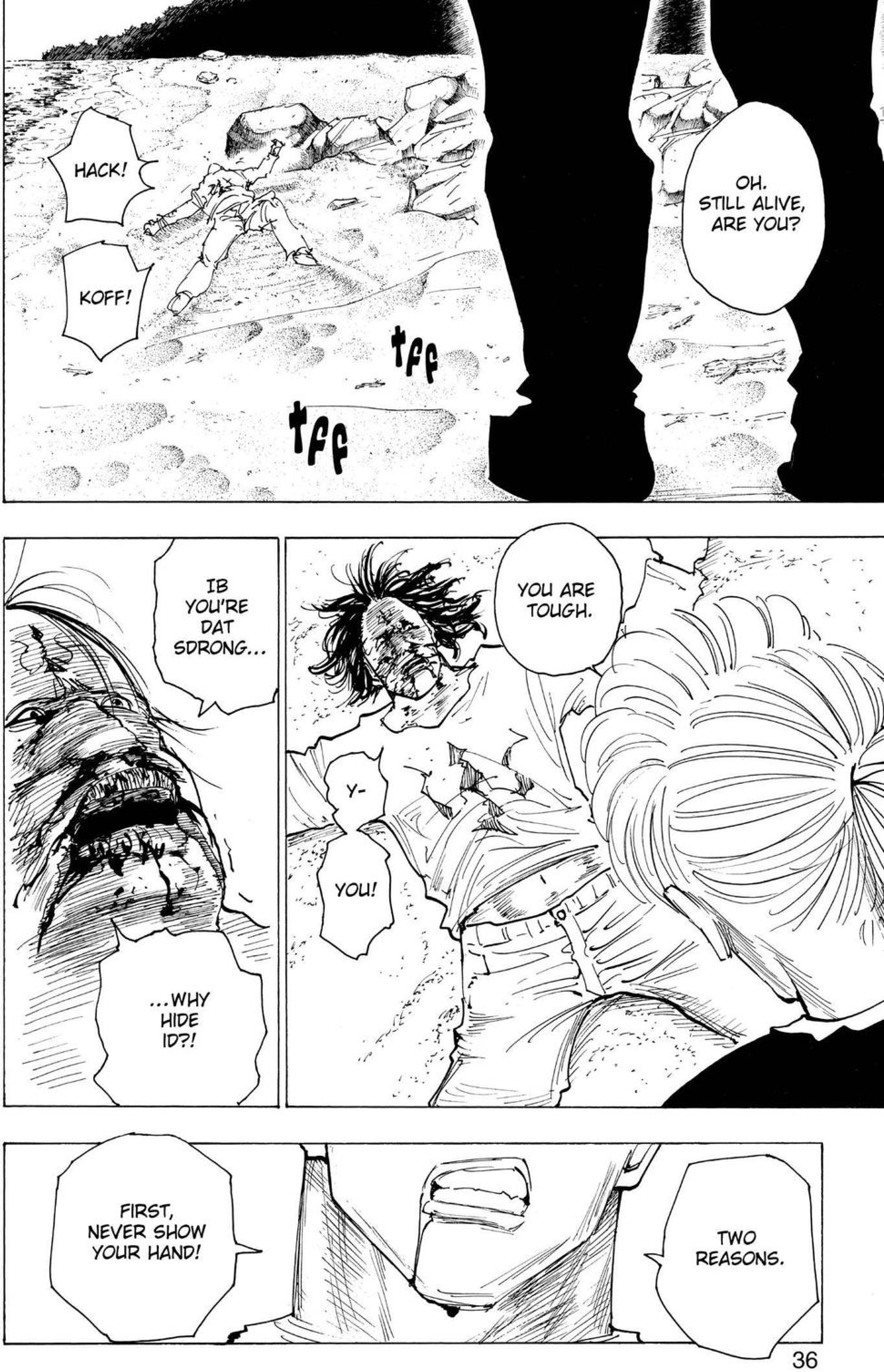

BLSH
THD...
RIP
FFT

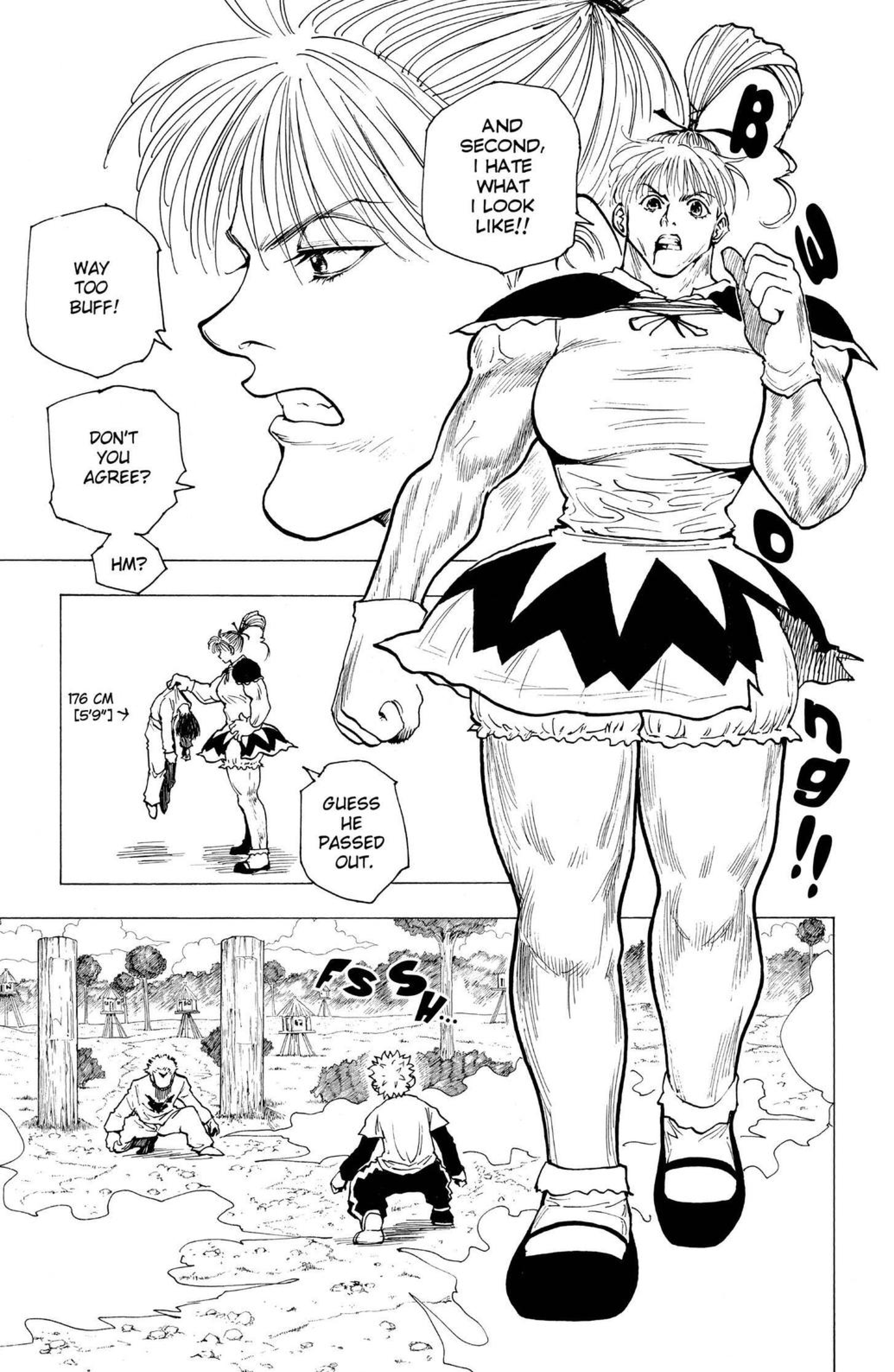

...
HEH HEH.


HA HA, THAT TICKLES!!
YOU CAN'T BEAT ME, LITTLE GIRL!!
I THOUGHT SO.
YOU'RE TOUGH.
WSSH
BASH
ZSHK
I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU, MISSY.
IT'S NOT PERSONAL.


HEH, THAT'S MY LINE. YOU BEAT ME TO IT.
WHAT THE...
I ALWAYS LET PEOPLE GET ONE BLOW IN. AS A TRIBUTE.
I CAN'T RESTRAIN MY PUNCHES WELL ENOUGH WHEN I TURN BACK...
KRK
KRK
SO I USUALLY END UP...
...KILLING THEM...

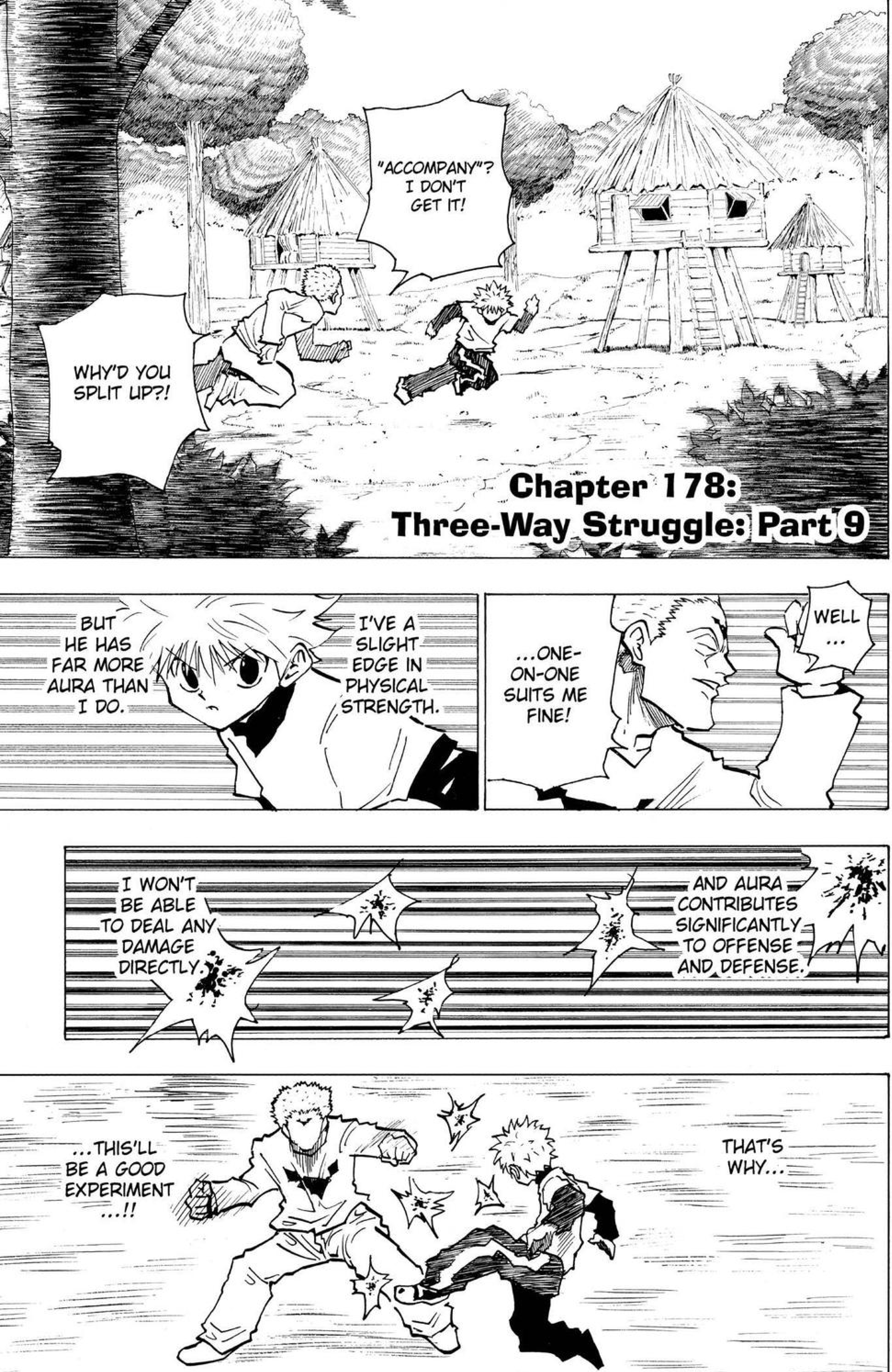


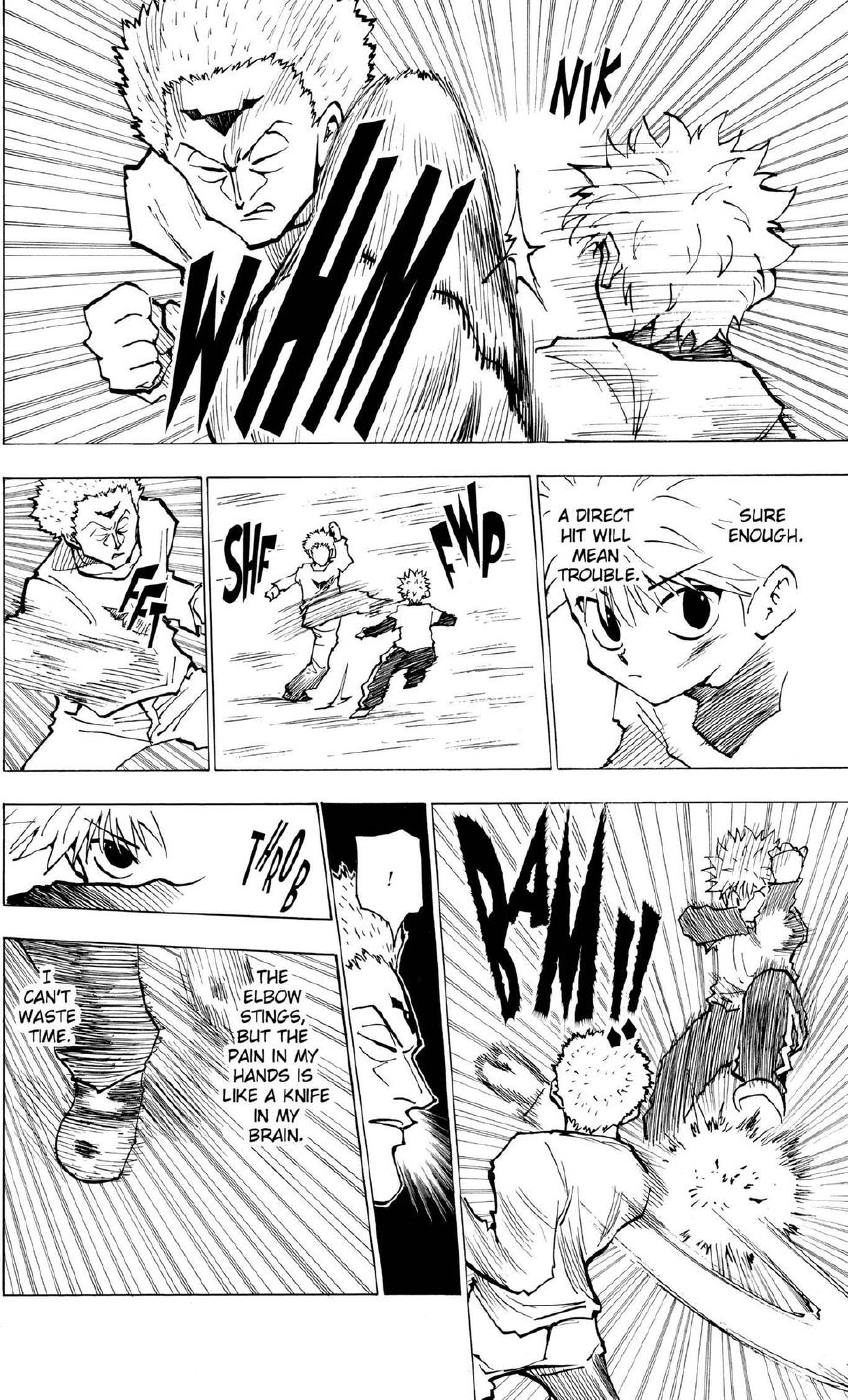

OH. STILL ALIVE, ARE YOU?
HACK!
KOFF!
tff
tff
YOU ARE TOUGH.
Y-
YOU!
IB YOU'RE DAT SDRONG...
...WHY HIDE ID?!
TWO REASONS.
FIRST, NEVER SHOW YOUR HAND!

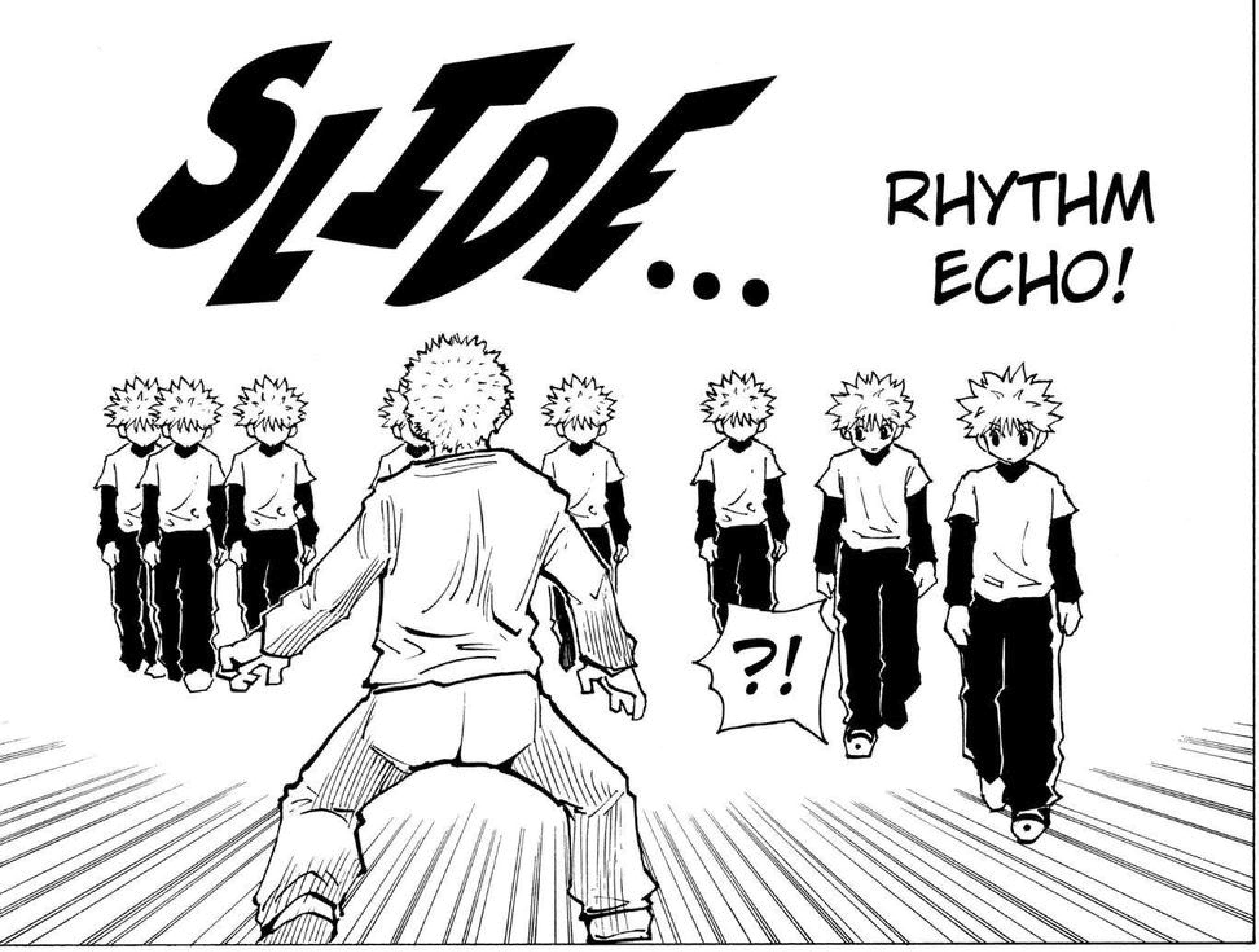

AND SECOND, I HATE WHAT I LOOK LIKE!!
WAY TOO BUFF!
DON'T YOU AGREE?
HM?
BWOONG!!
GUESS HE PASSED OUT.
176 CM [5'9"] →
FSSH...

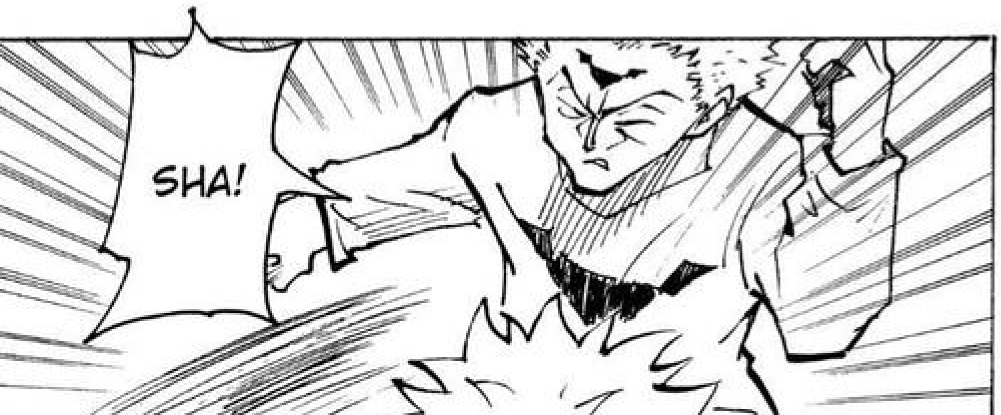
DRAW WITHOUT LOOKING: PART 6
BISCUIT

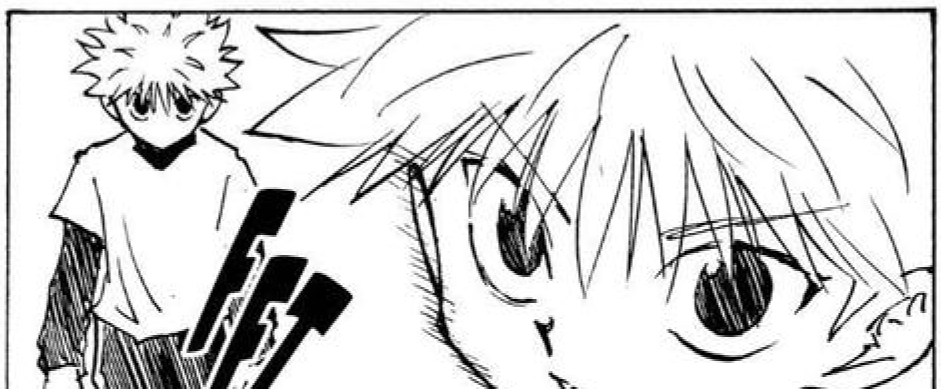
Chapter 178: Three-Way Struggle: Part 9

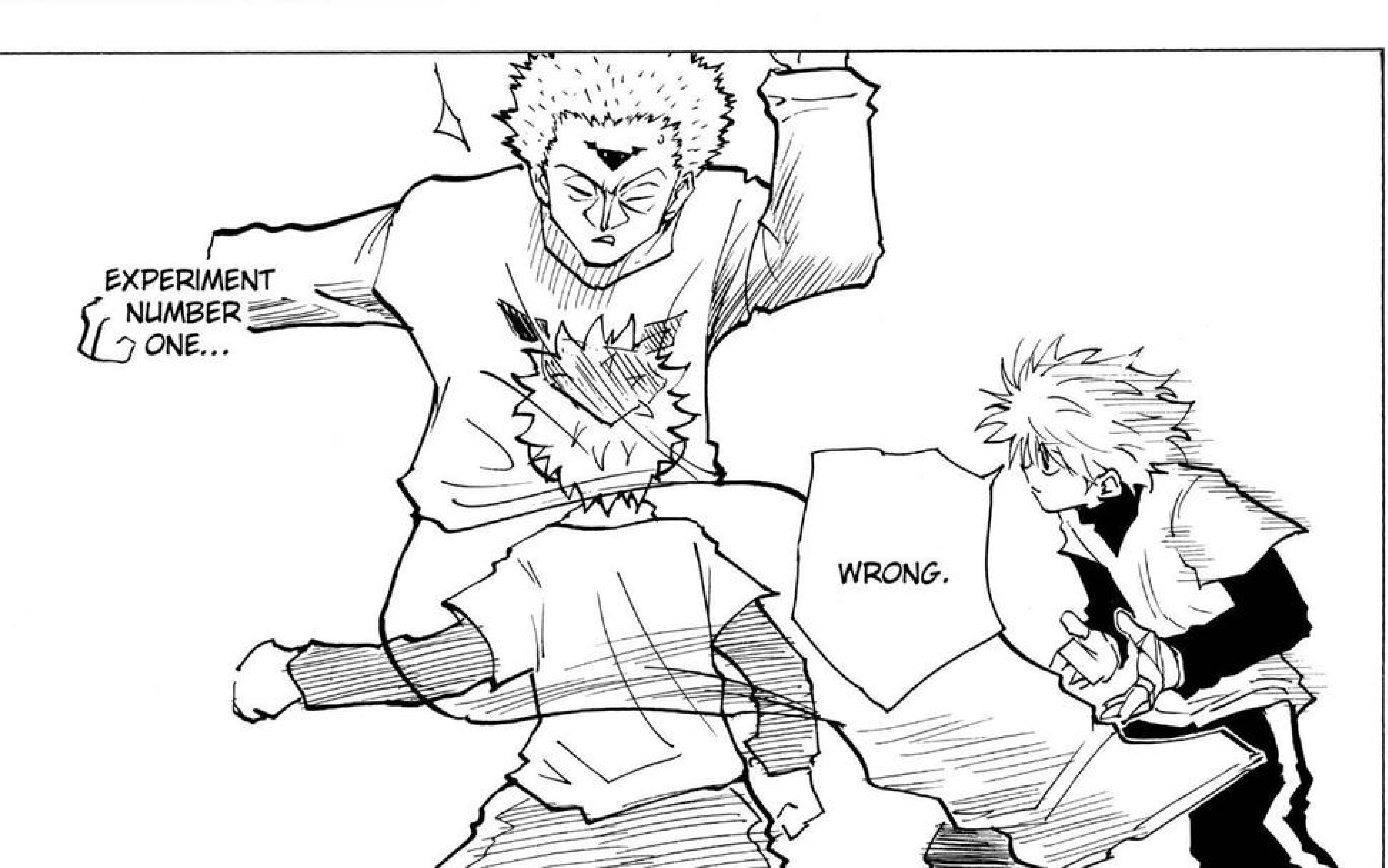

"ACCOMPANY"? I DON'T GET IT!
WHY'D YOU SPLIT UP?!
WELL ...
...ONE-ON-ONE SUITS ME FINE!
I'VE A SLIGHT EDGE IN PHYSICAL STRENGTH.
BUT HE HAS FAR MORE AURA THAN I DO.
AND AURA CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO OFFENSE AND DEFENSE.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO DEAL ANY DAMAGE DIRECTLY.
THAT'S WHY...
...THIS'LL BE A GOOD EXPERIMENT ...!!


NIK
WHAM
SURE ENOUGH.
A DIRECT HIT WILL MEAN TROUBLE.
FWP
SHF
FFT
BAM!!
!
THROB
THE ELBOW STINGS, BUT THE PAIN IN MY HANDS IS LIKE A KNIFE IN MY BRAIN.
I CAN'T WASTE TIME.

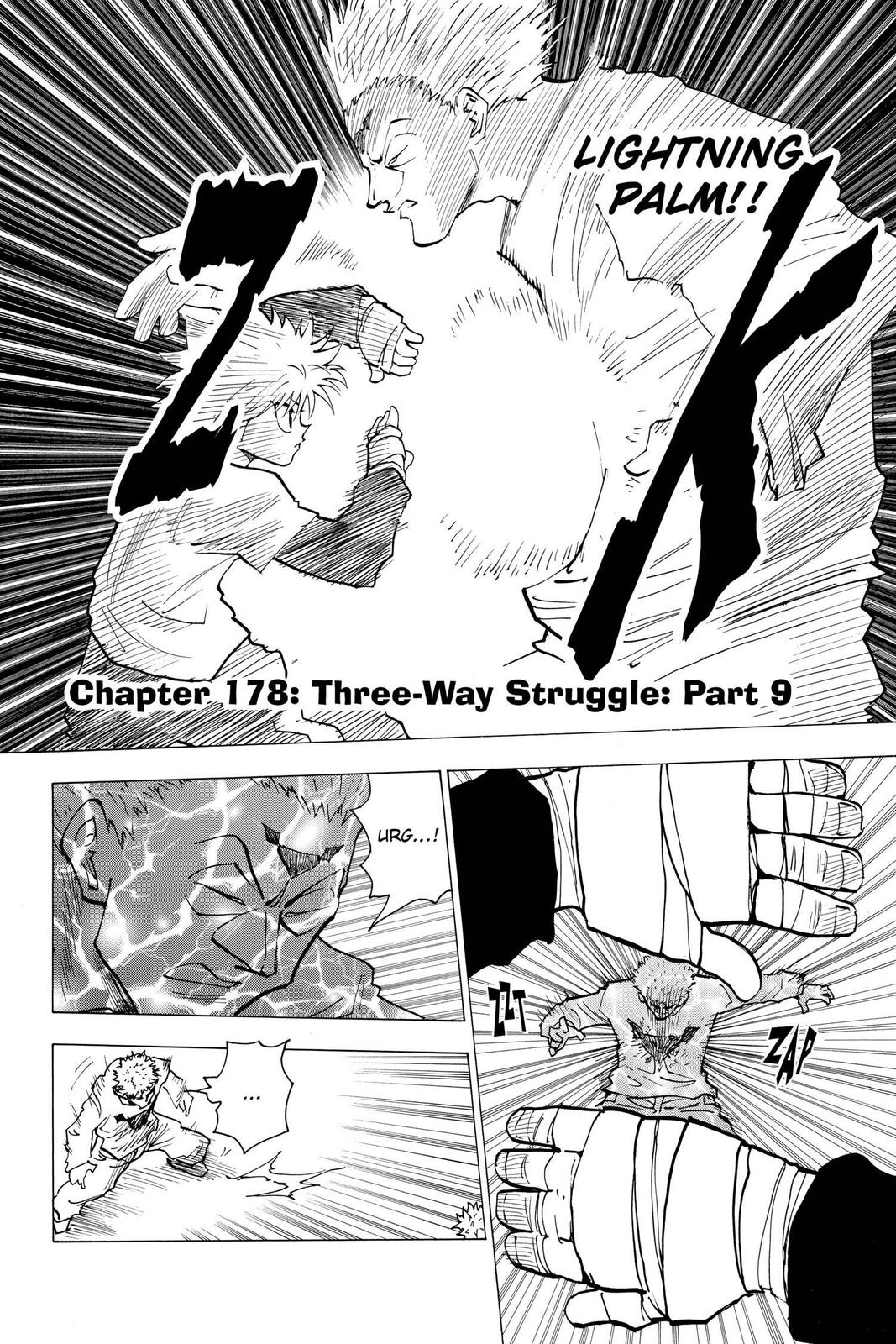

SLIDE...
RHYTHM ECHO!
?!


SHA!

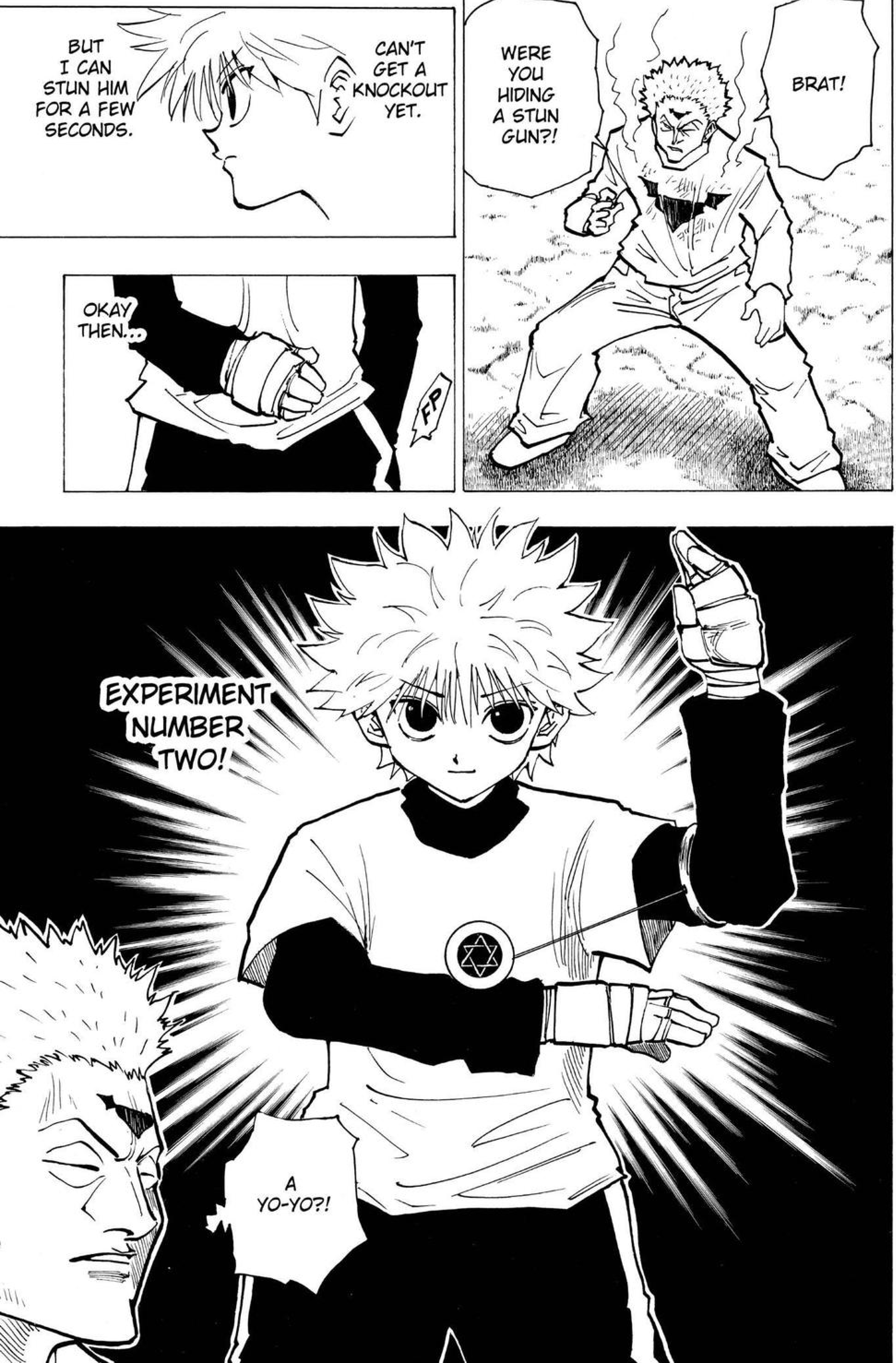


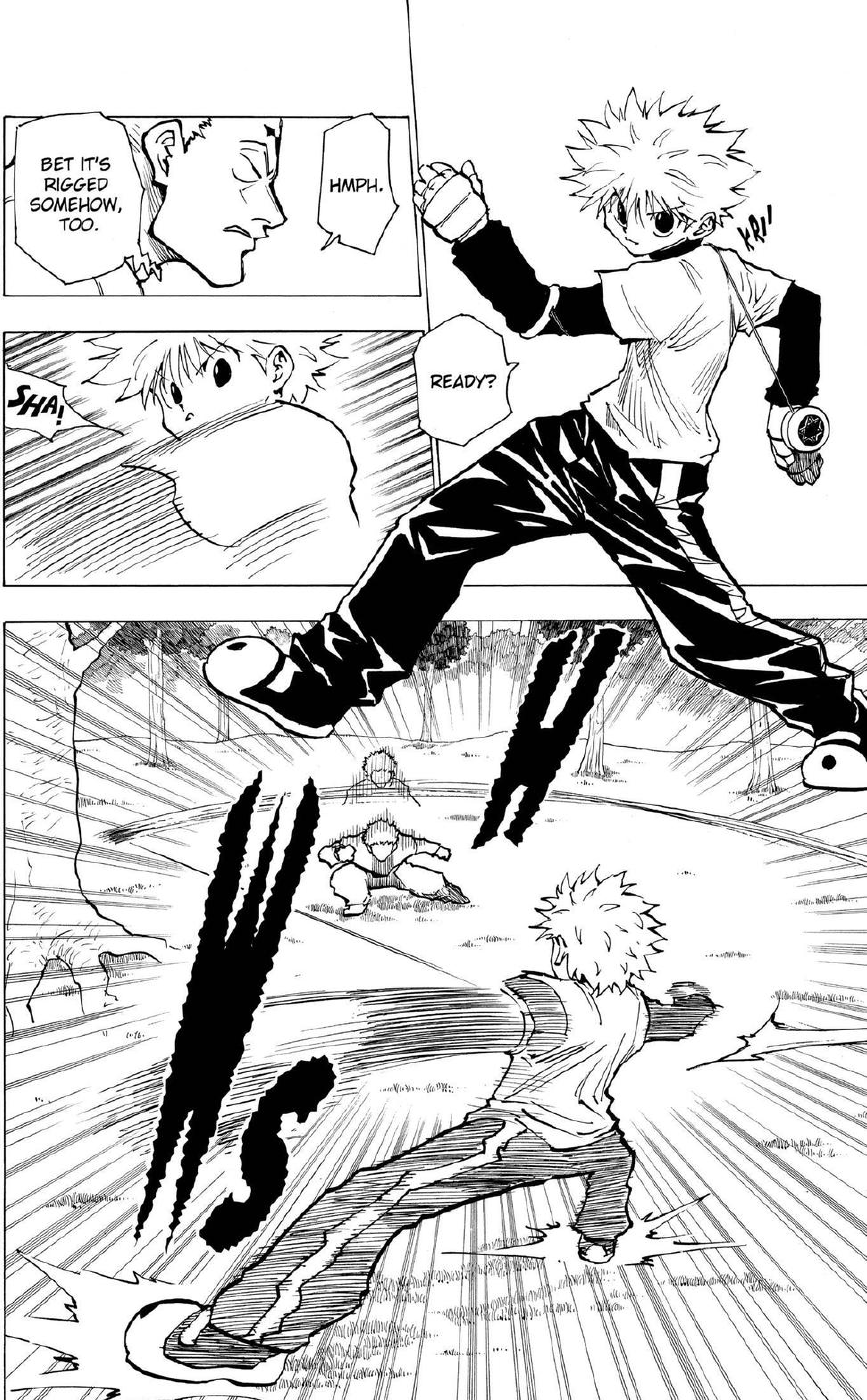

EXPERIMENT NUMBER ONE...
WRONG.

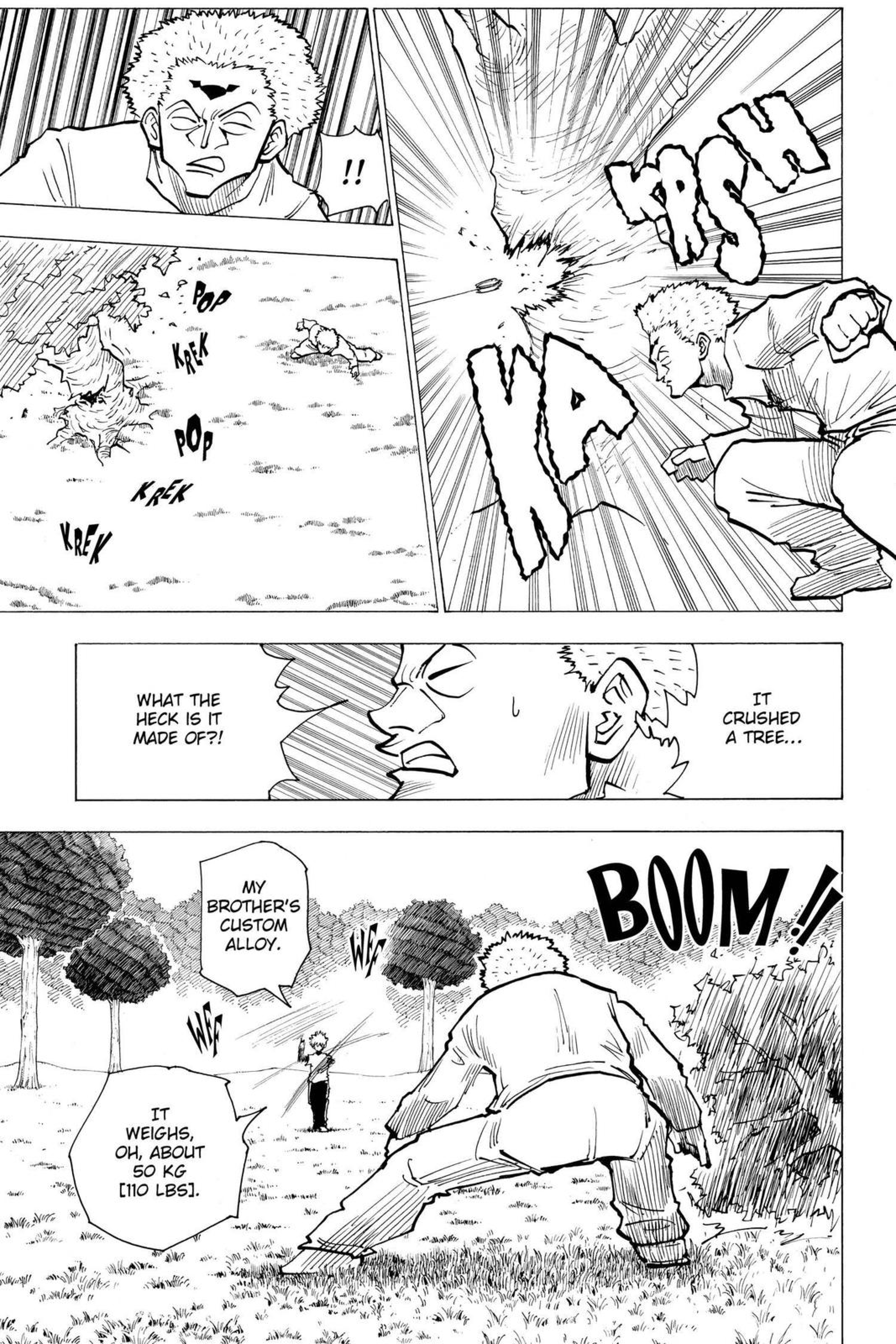
Chapter 178: Three-Way Struggle: Part 9

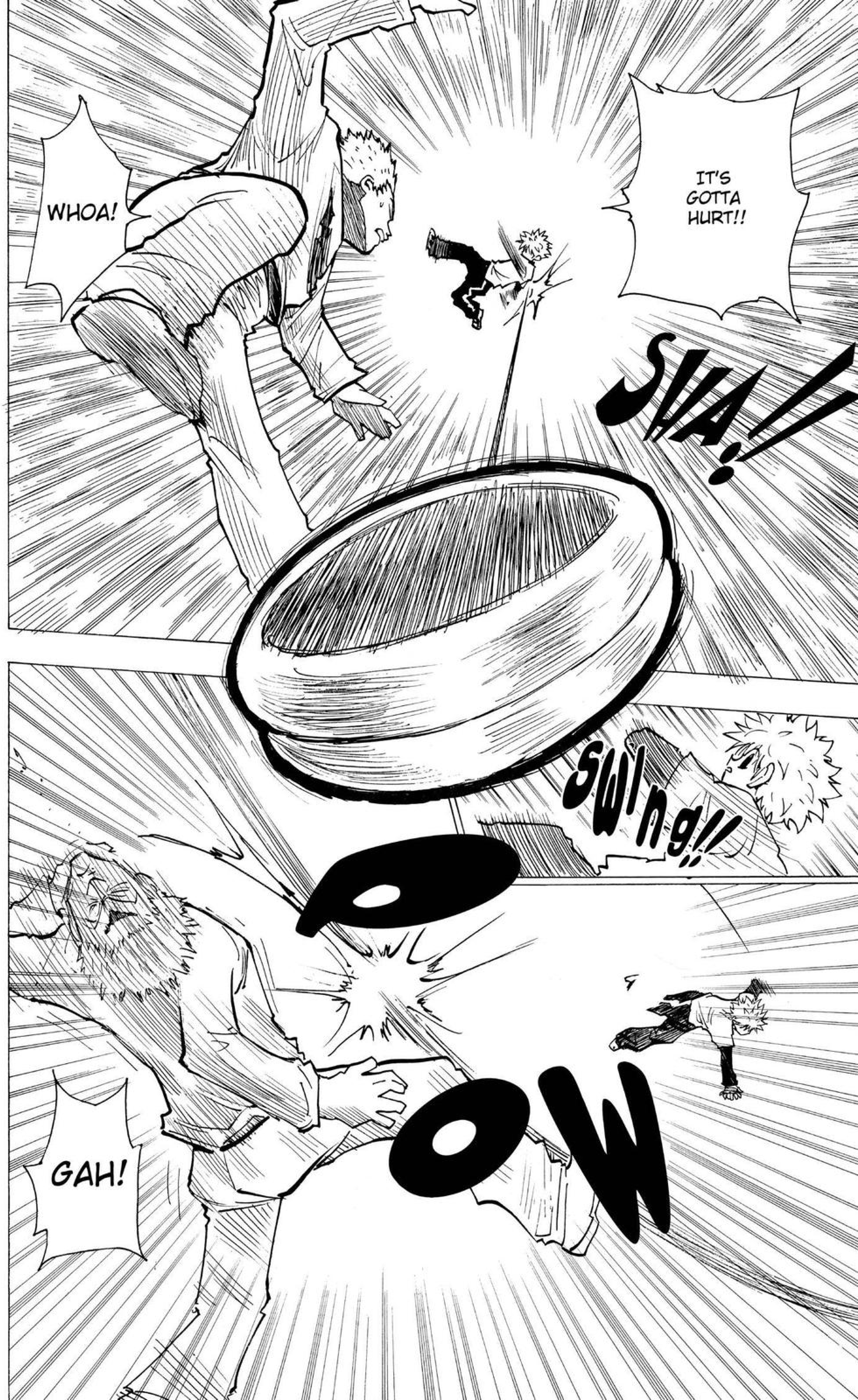

LIGHTNING PALM!!
ZK
ZZT
ZAP
URG...!
...

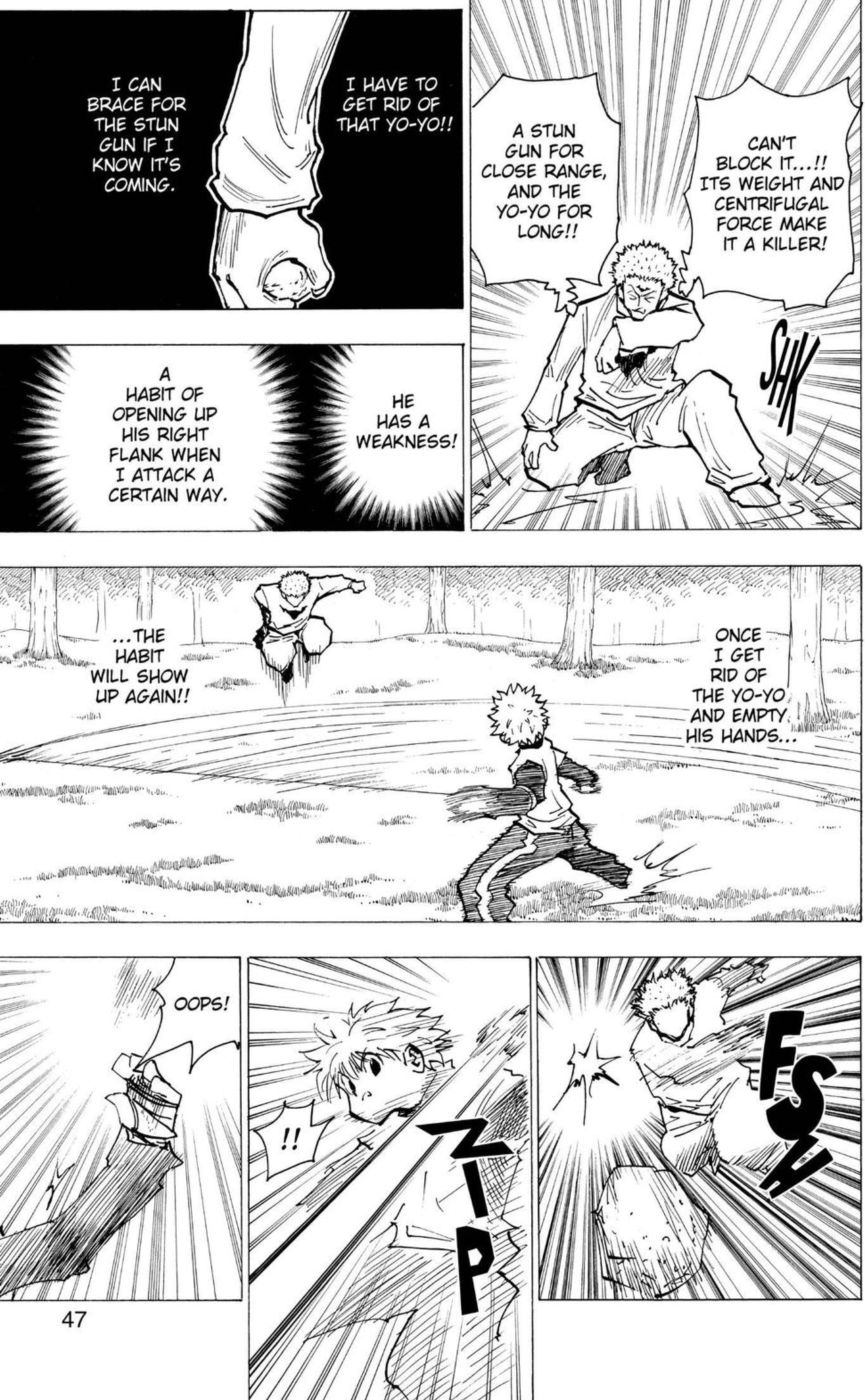
READ THIS WAY

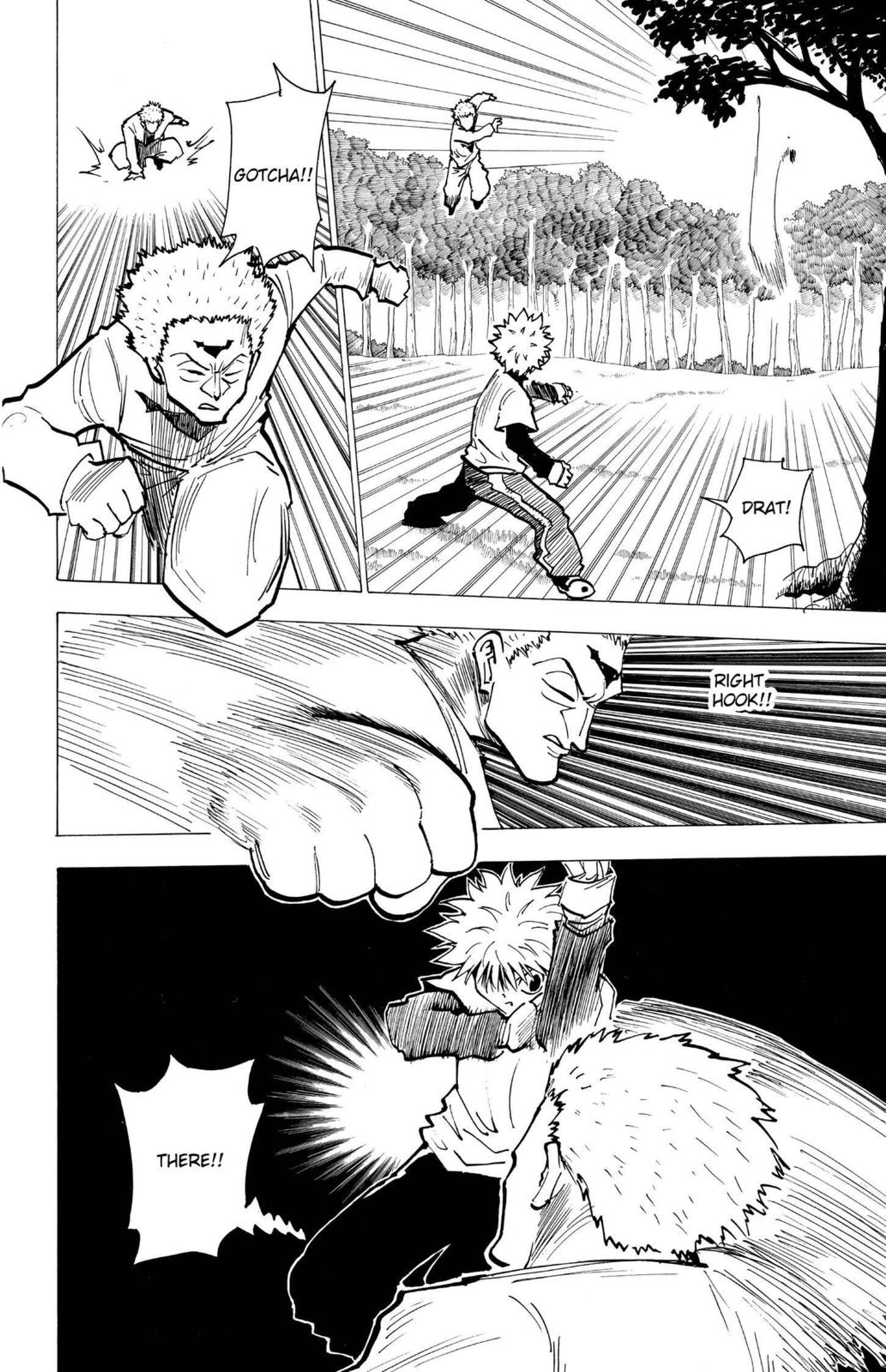

BRAT!
WERE YOU HIDING A STUN GUN?!
CAN'T GET A KNOCKOUT YET.
BUT I CAN STUN HIM FOR A FEW SECONDS.
FP
OKAY THEN...
EXPERIMENT NUMBER TWO!
A YO-YO?!

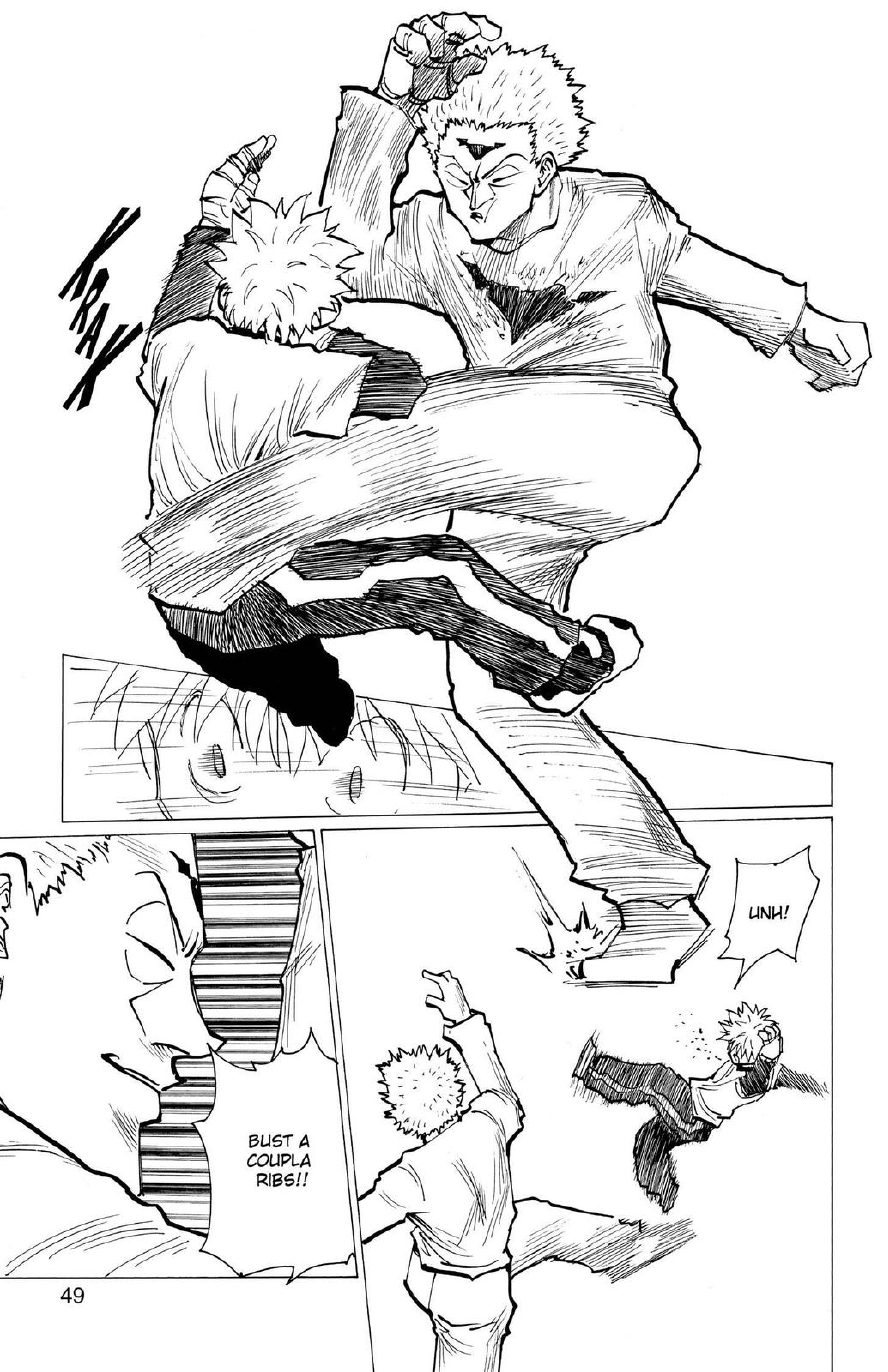

HMPH.
BET IT'S RIGGED SOMEHOW, TOO.
KRI'
READY?
SHA!

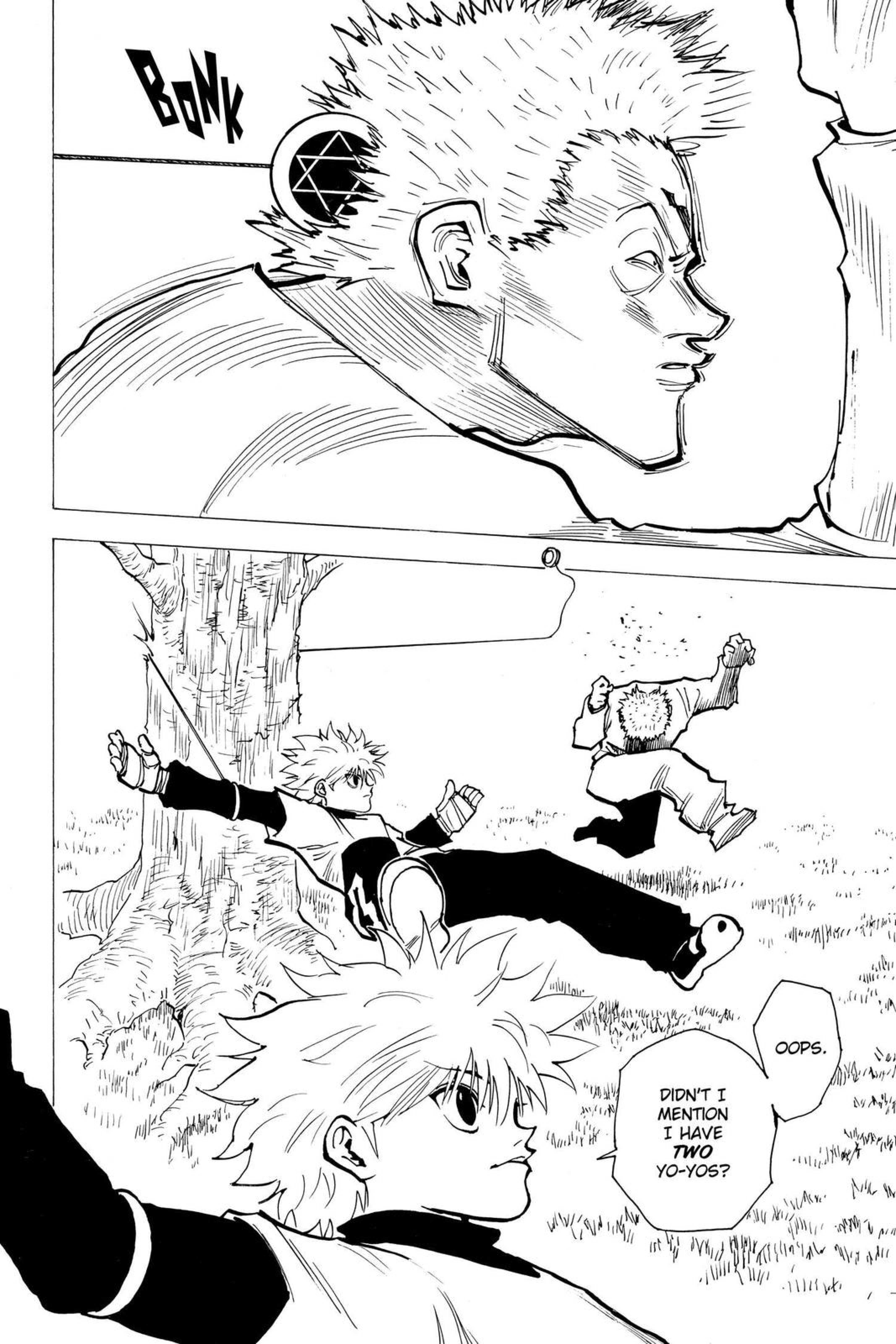

KRSH
KA
!!
POP
KREK
POP
KREK
KREK
IT CRUSHED A TREE...
WHAT THE HECK IS IT MADE OF?!
BOOM!!
MY BROTHER'S CUSTOM ALLOY.
WEF
WEF
IT WEIGHS, OH, ABOUT 50 KG [110 LBS].

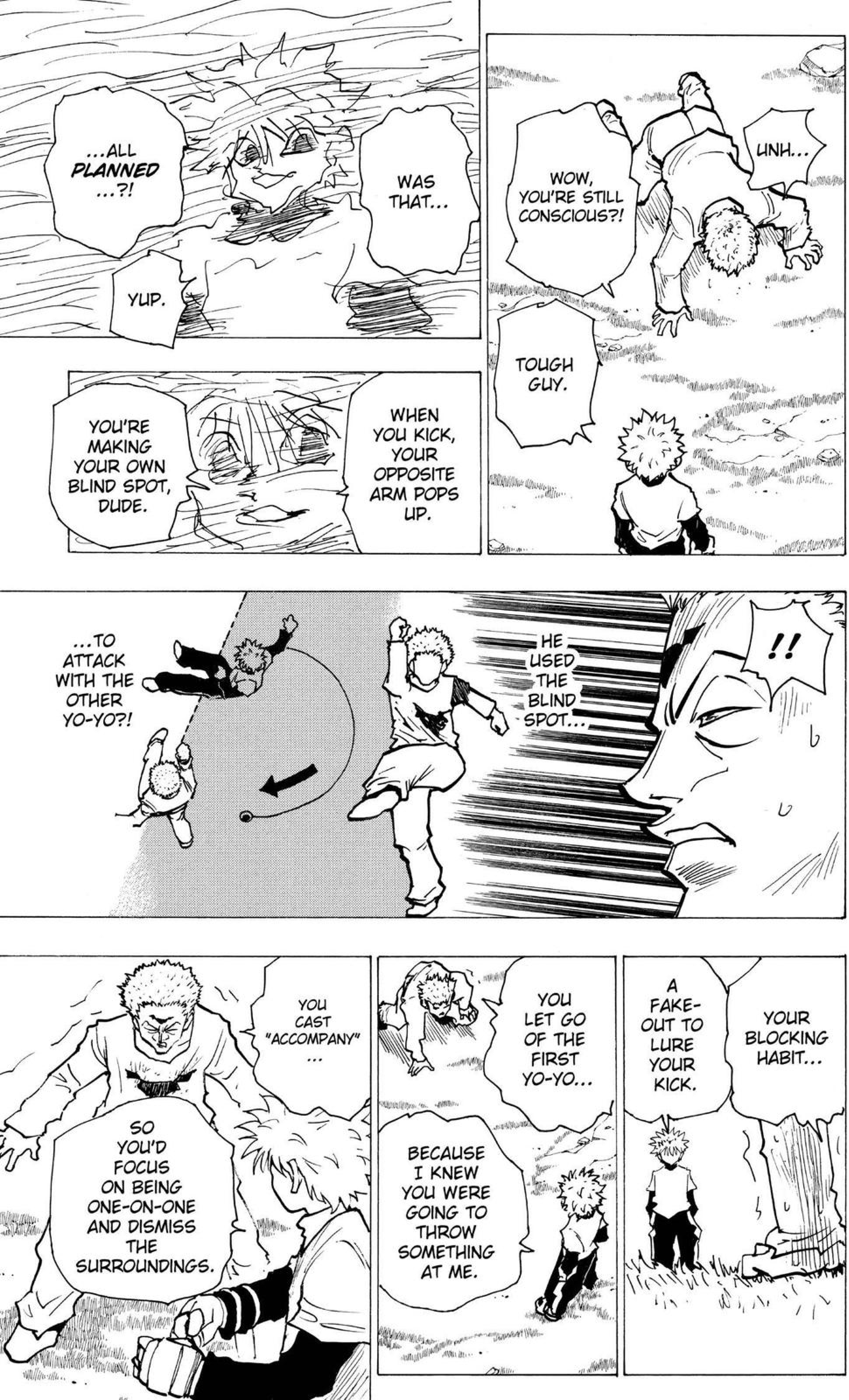

IT'S GOTTA HURT!!
SVA!!
WHOA!
SWing!!
POW
GAH!

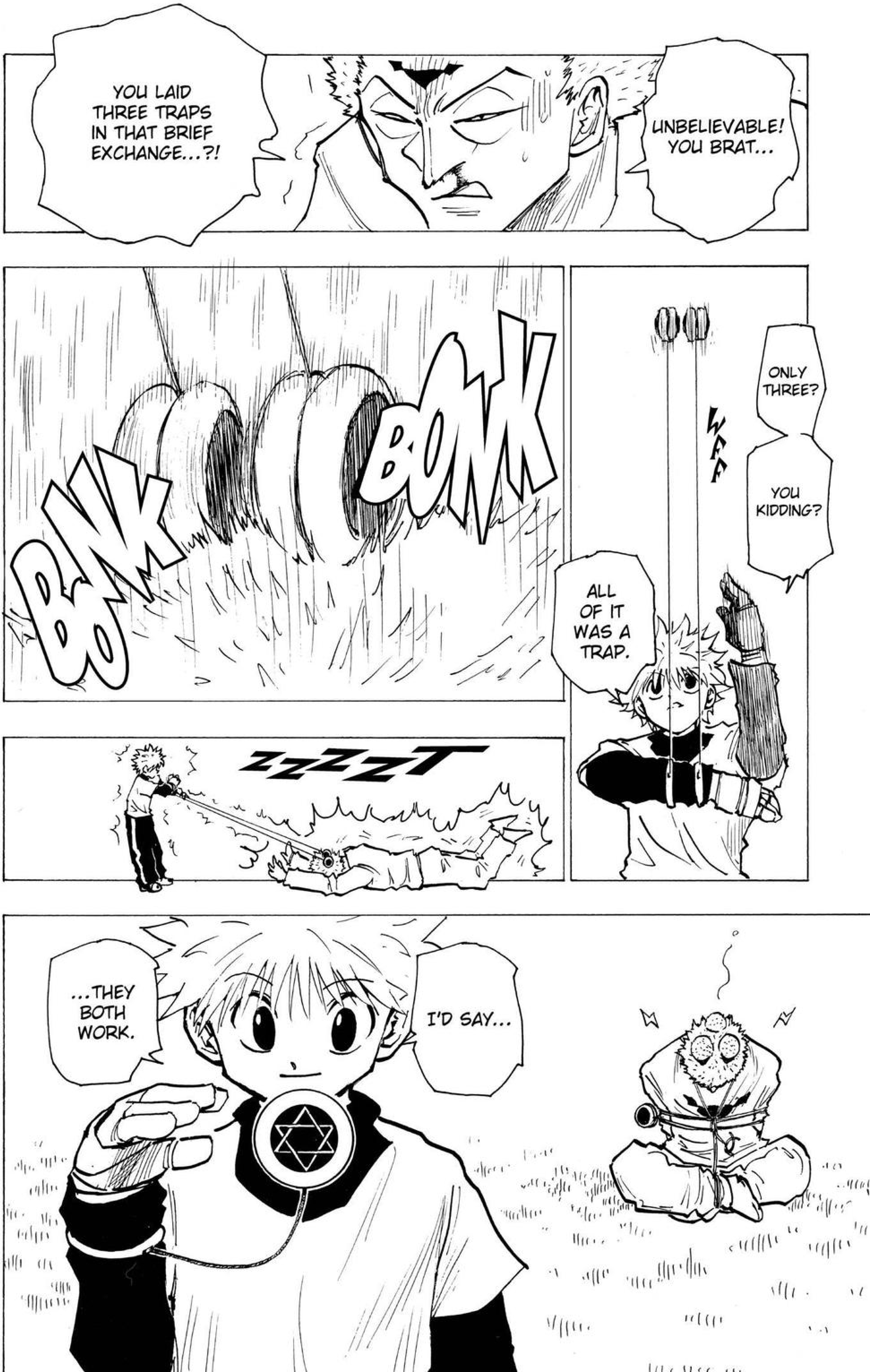

CAN'T BLOCK IT...!! ITS WEIGHT AND CENTRIFUGAL FORCE MAKE IT A KILLER!
A STUN GUN FOR CLOSE RANGE, AND THE YO-YO FOR LONG!!
SHK
I HAVE TO GET RID OF THAT YO-YO!!
I CAN BRACE FOR THE STUN GUN IF I KNOW IT'S COMING.
HE HAS A WEAKNESS!
A HABIT OF OPENING UP HIS RIGHT FLANK WHEN I ATTACK A CERTAIN WAY.
ONCE I GET RID OF THE YO-YO AND EMPTY HIS HANDS...
...THE HABIT WILL SHOW UP AGAIN!!
FSH
ZIP
!!
OOPS!

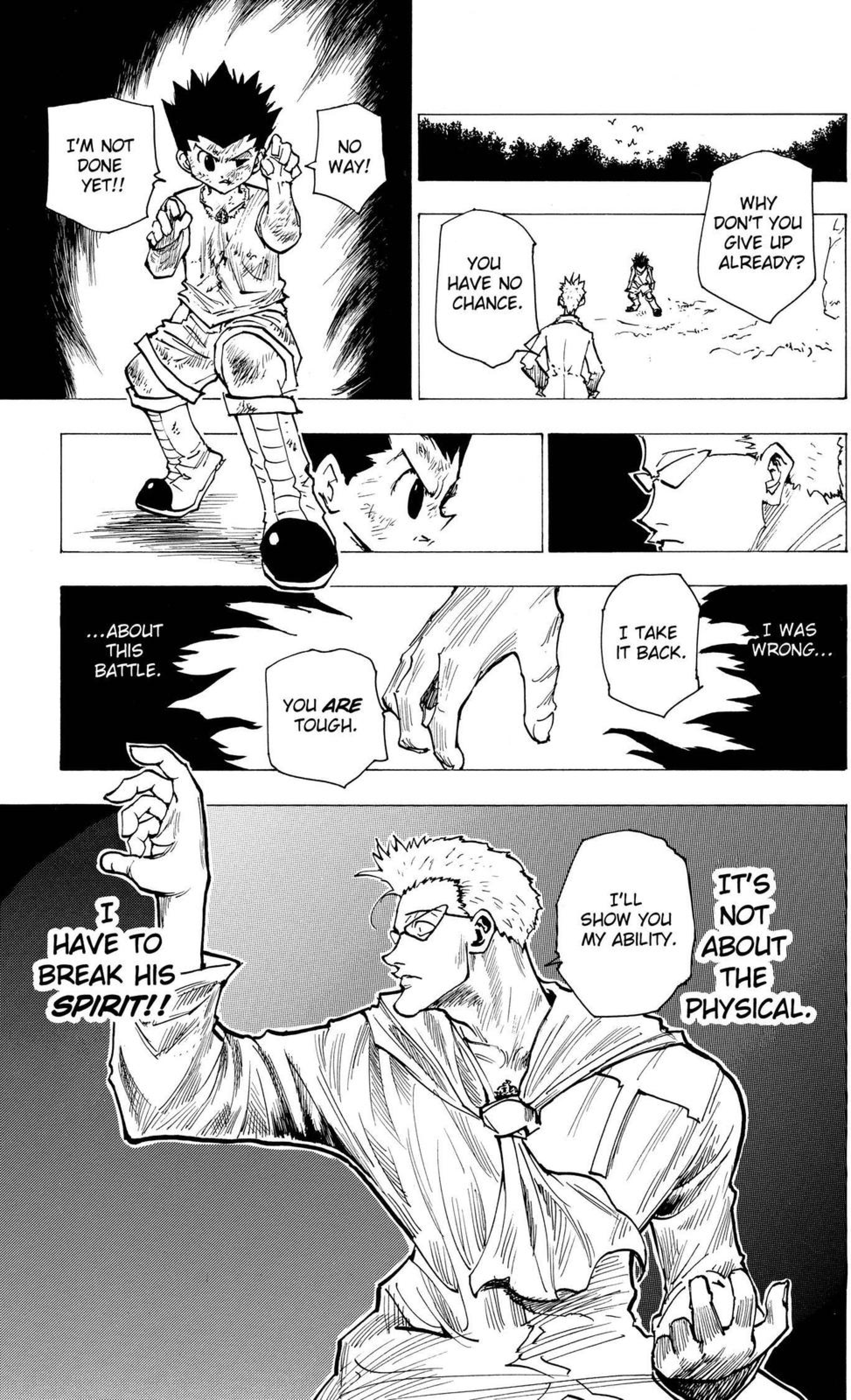

GOTCHA!!
DRAT!
RIGHT HOOK!!
THERE!!

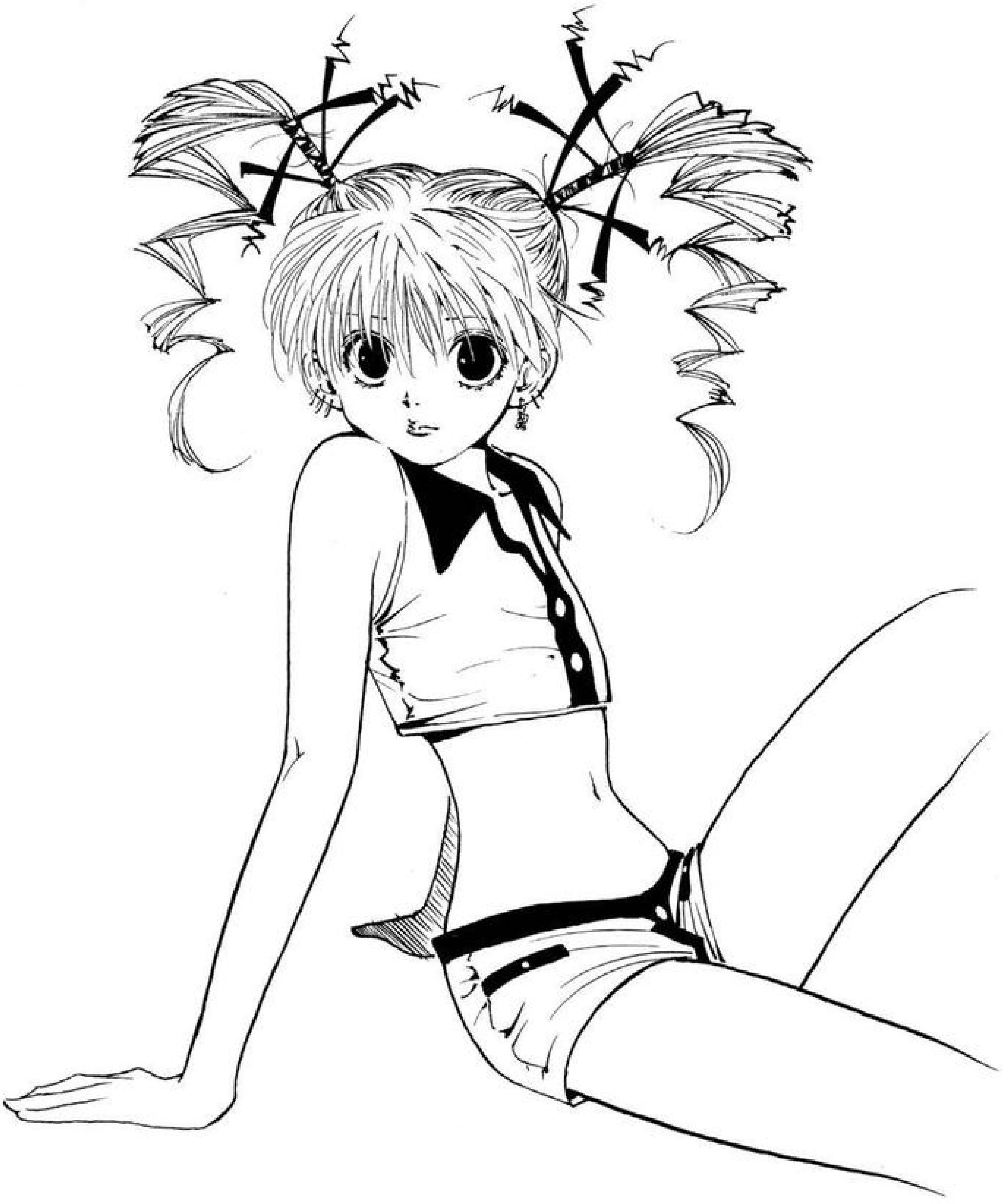

KRAK
UNH!
BUST A COUPLA RIBS!!


BONK
OOPS.
DIDN'T I MENTION I HAVE **TWO** YO-YOS?


UNH...
WOW, YOU'RE STILL CONSCIOUS?!
TOUGH GUY.
WAS THAT...
...ALL **PLANNED** ...?!
YUP.
WHEN YOU KICK, YOUR OPPOSITE ARM POPS UP.
YOU'RE MAKING YOUR OWN BLIND SPOT, DUDE.
!!
HE USED THE BLIND SPOT...
...TO ATTACK WITH THE OTHER YO-YO?!
YOUR BLOCKING HABIT...
A FAKE-OUT TO LURE YOUR KICK.
YOU LET GO OF THE FIRST YO-YO...
BECAUSE I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO THROW SOMETHING AT ME.
YOU CAST "ACCOMPANY" ...
SO YOU'D FOCUS ON BEING ONE-ON-ONE AND DISMISS THE SURROUNDINGS.

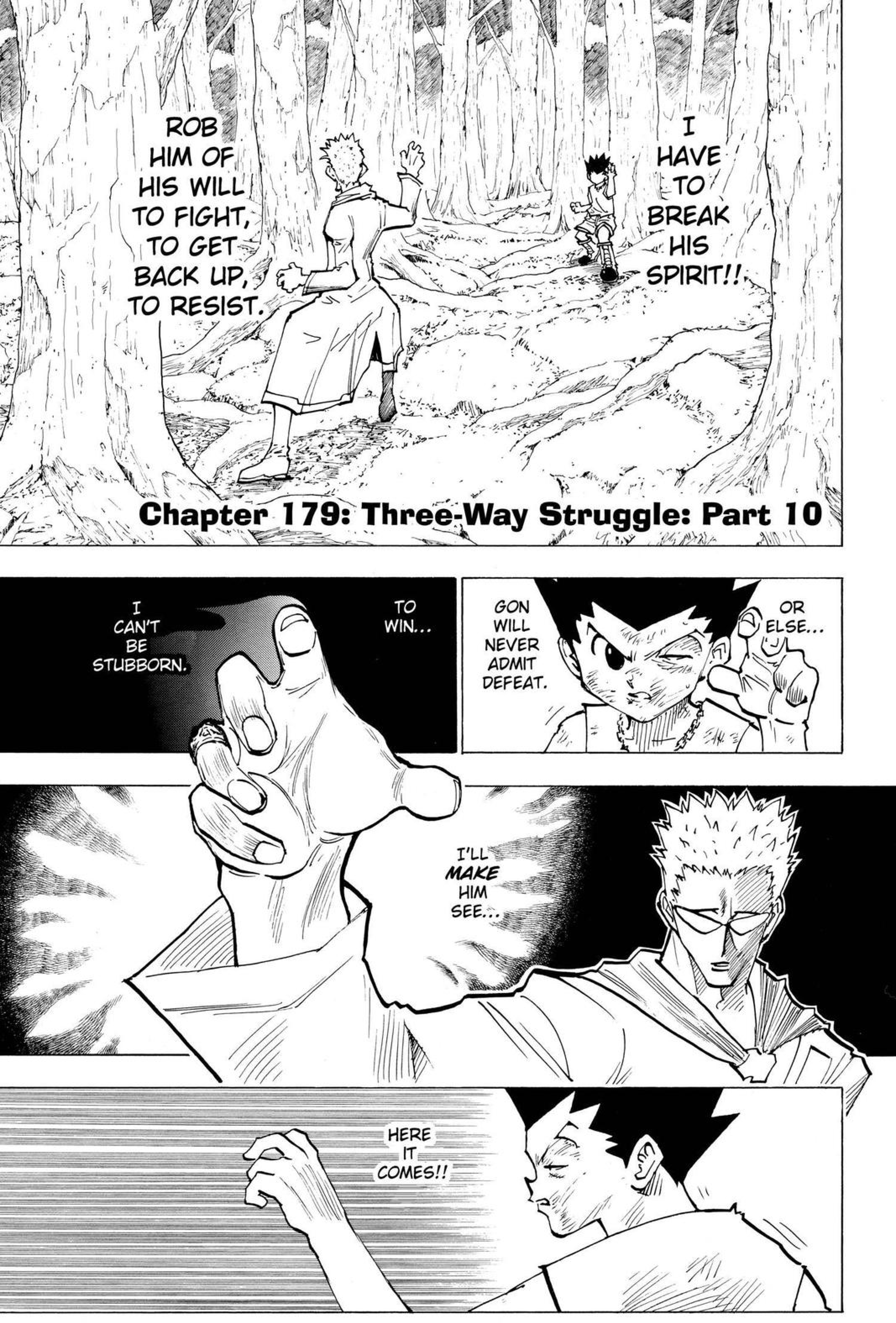

UNBELIEVABLE! YOU BRAT…
YOU LAID THREE TRAPS IN THAT BRIEF EXCHANGE…?!
ONLY THREE?
YOU KIDDING?
WFF
ALL OF IT WAS A TRAP.
BONK
BONK
ZZZZZT
I'D SAY…
…THEY BOTH WORK.

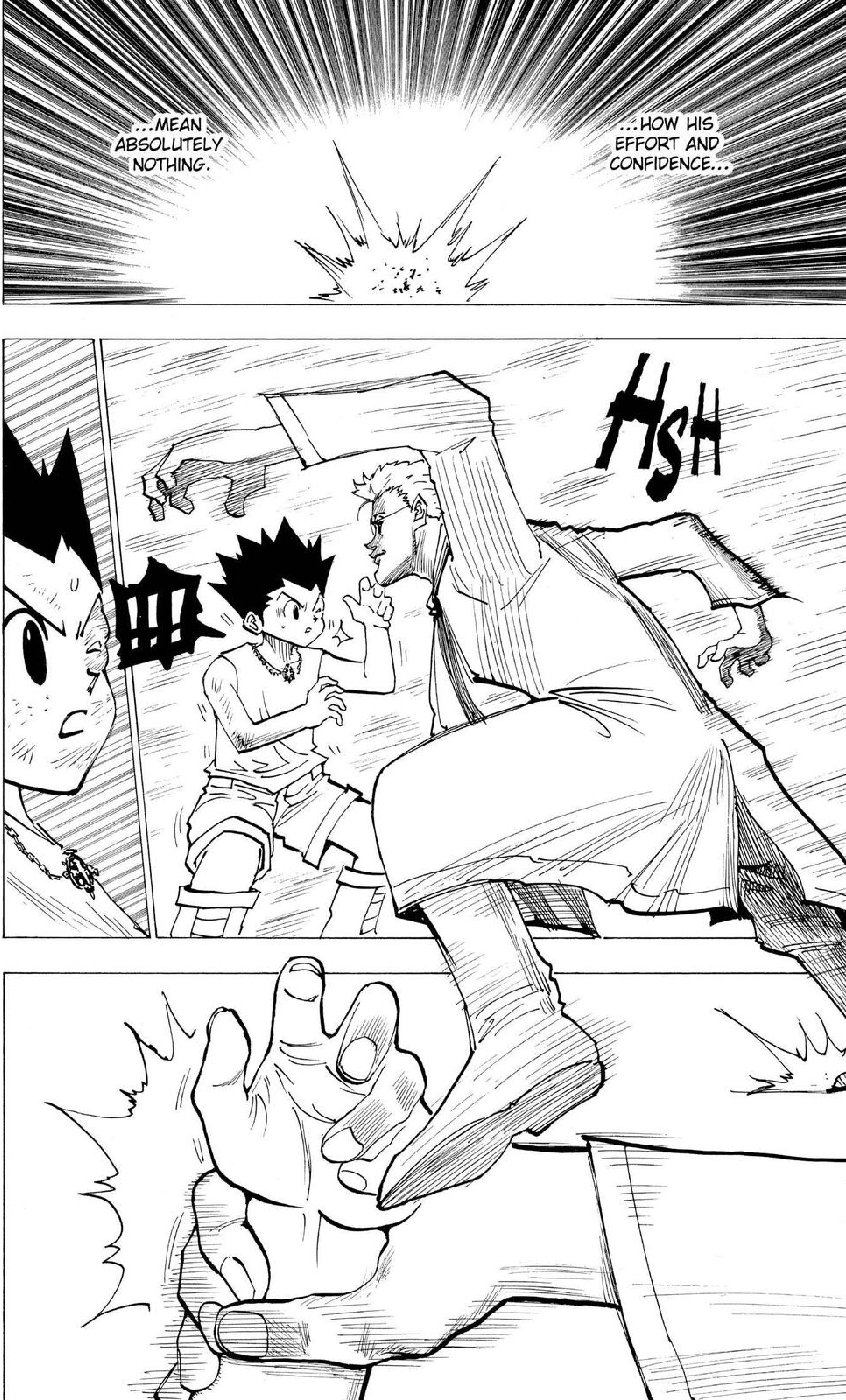

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP ALREADY?
YOU HAVE NO CHANCE.
NO WAY!
I'M NOT DONE YET!!
I WAS WRONG...
I TAKE IT BACK.
YOU *ARE* TOUGH.
...ABOUT THIS BATTLE.
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE PHYSICAL.
I'LL SHOW YOU MY ABILITY.
I HAVE TO BREAK HIS *SPIRIT!!*

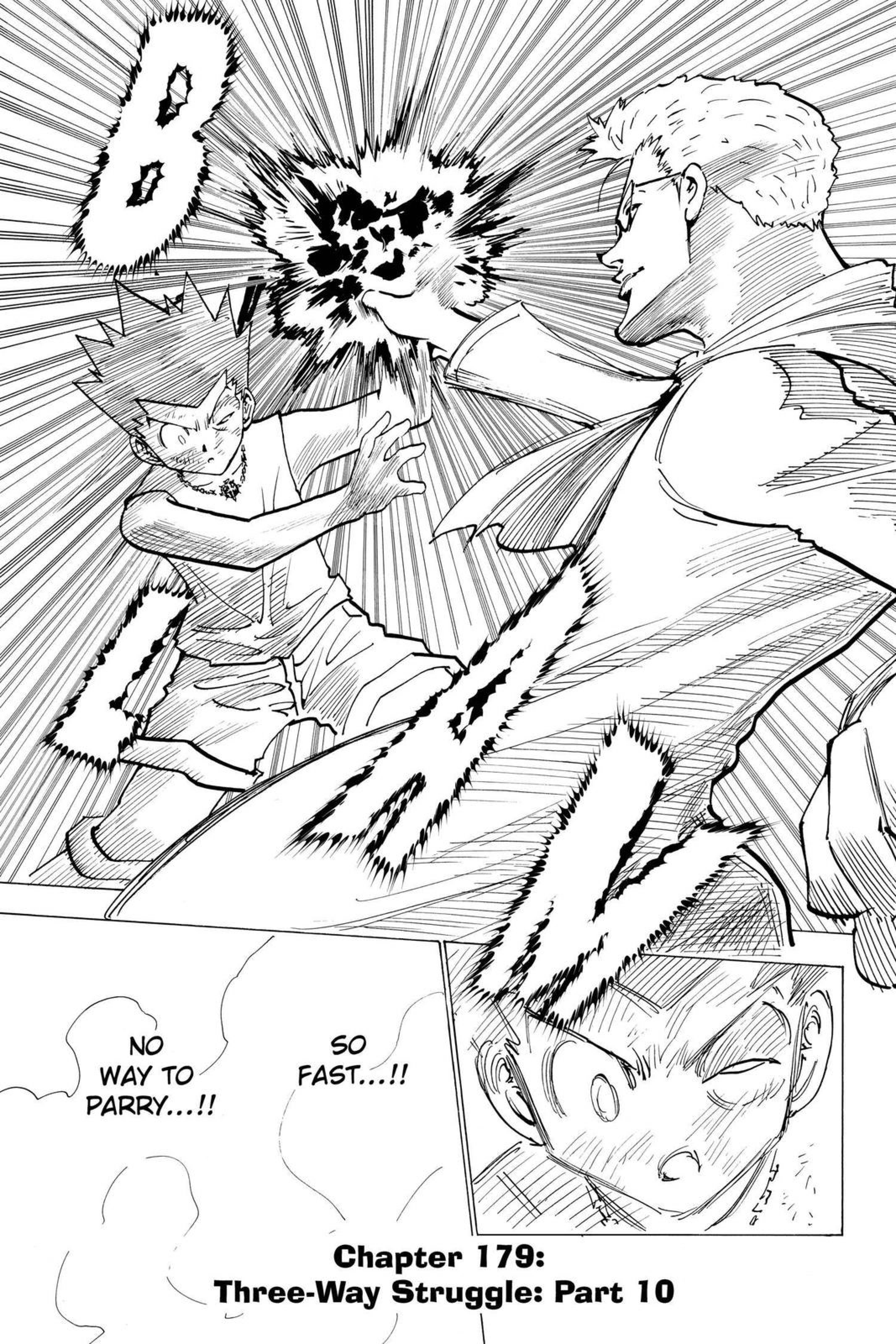


DRAW WITHOUT LOOKING: PART 6
BISCUIT

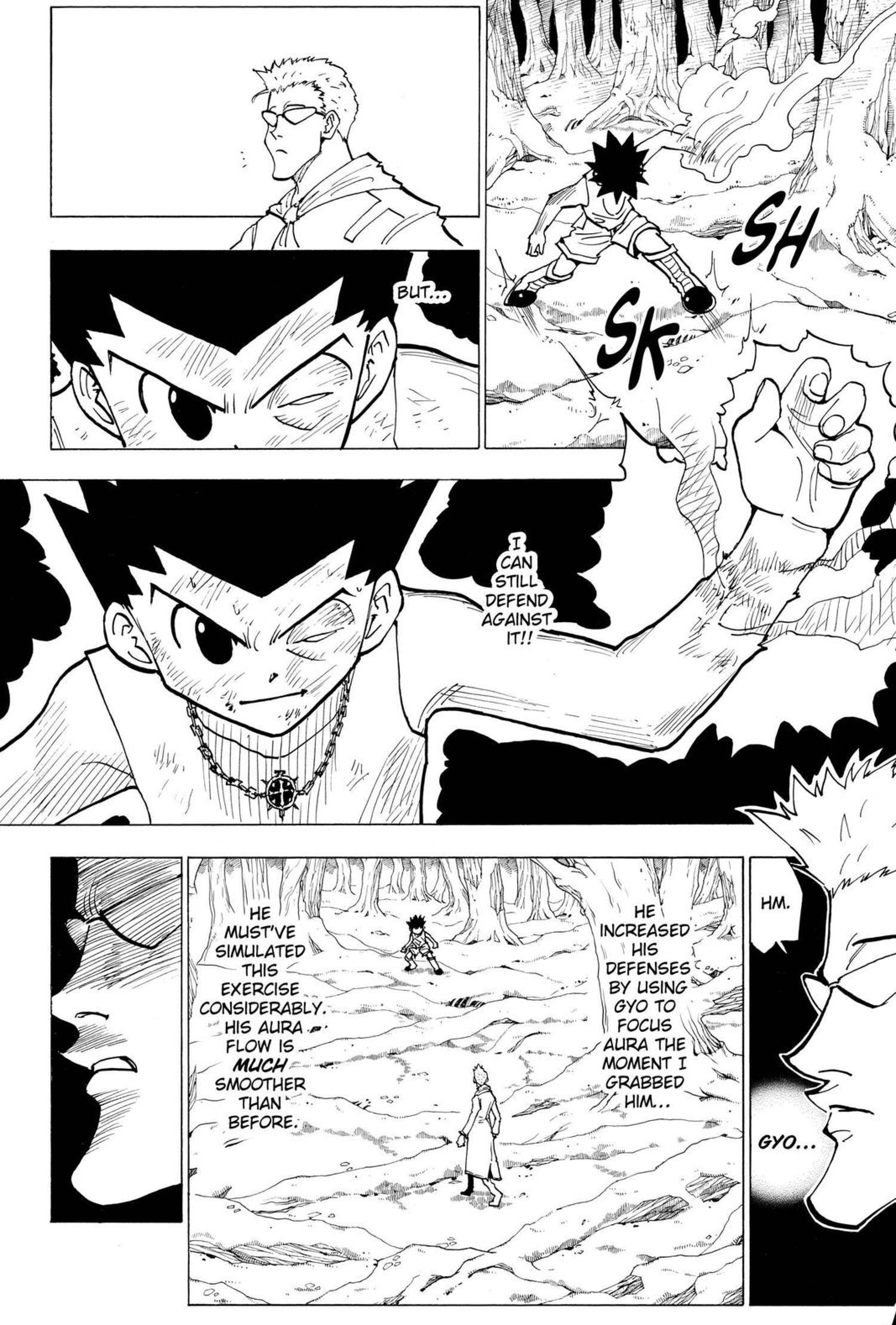
Chapter 179: Three-Way Struggle: Part 10

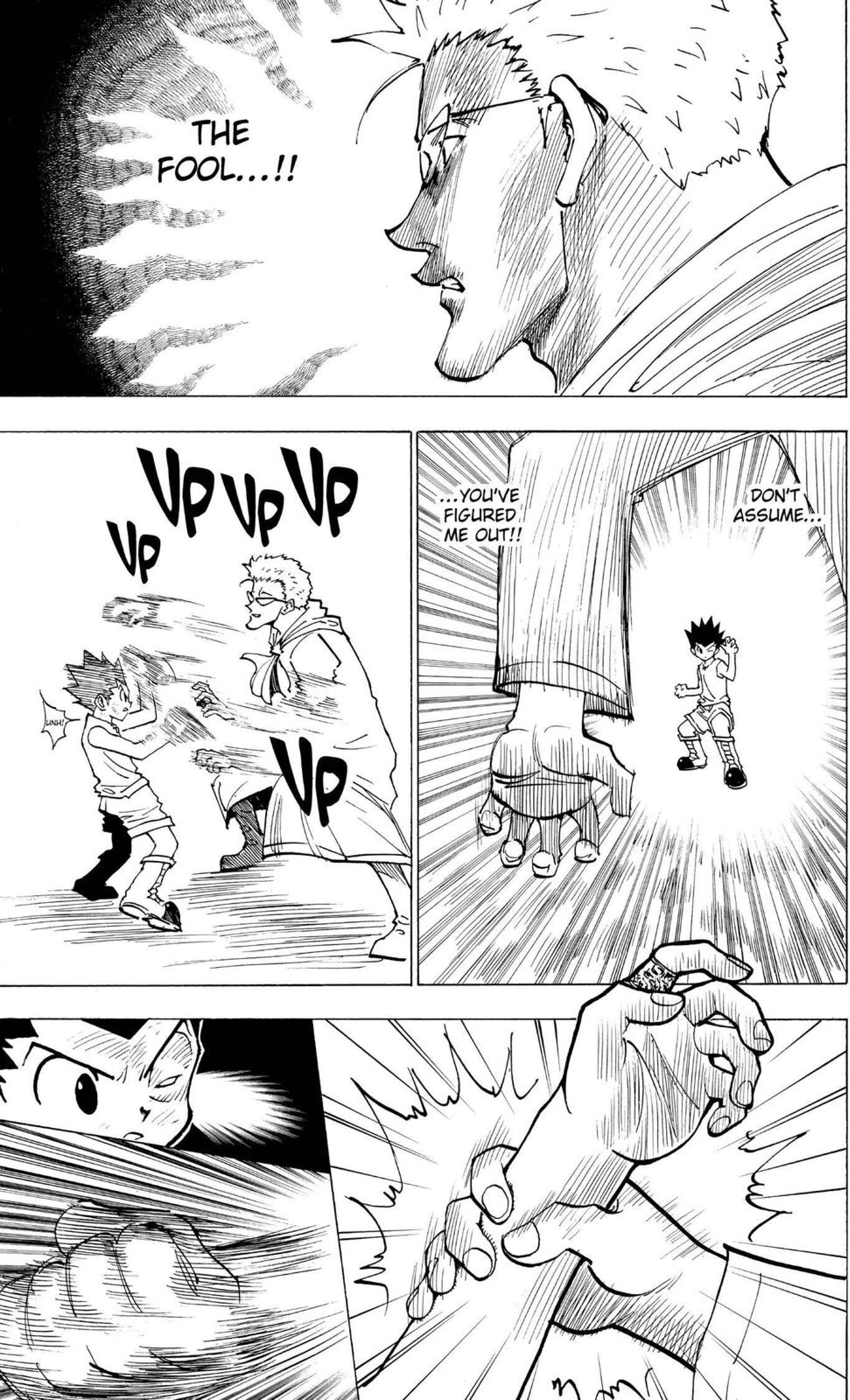

I HAVE TO BREAK HIS SPIRIT!!
ROB HIM OF HIS WILL TO FIGHT, TO GET BACK UP, TO RESIST.
OR ELSE...
GON WILL NEVER ADMIT DEFEAT.
TO WIN...
I CAN'T BE STUBBORN.
I'LL *MAKE* HIM SEE...
HERE IT COMES!!

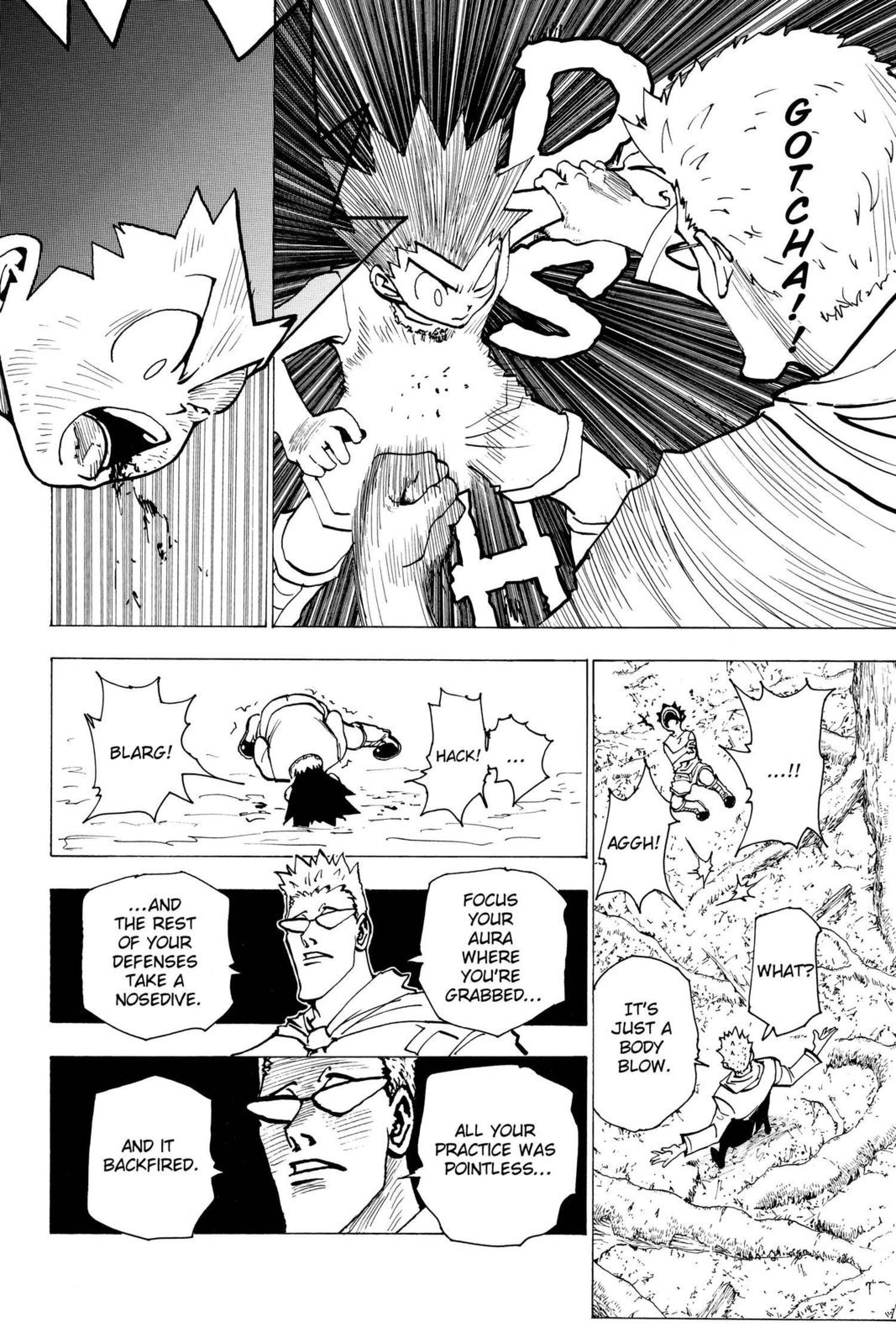

...HOW HIS EFFORT AND CONFIDENCE...
...MEAN ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
HSH
!!!

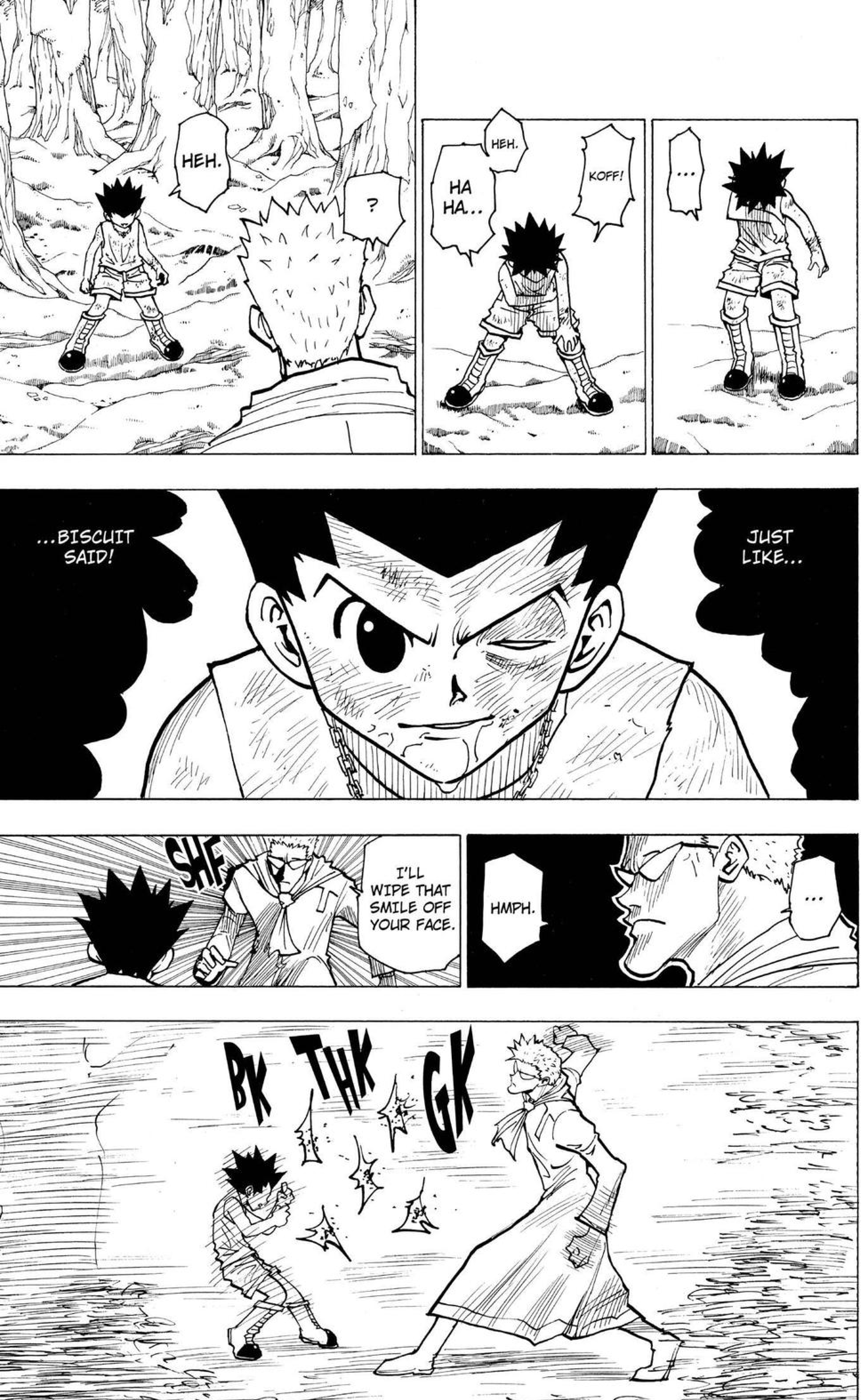

SO FAST...!!
NO WAY TO PARRY...!!

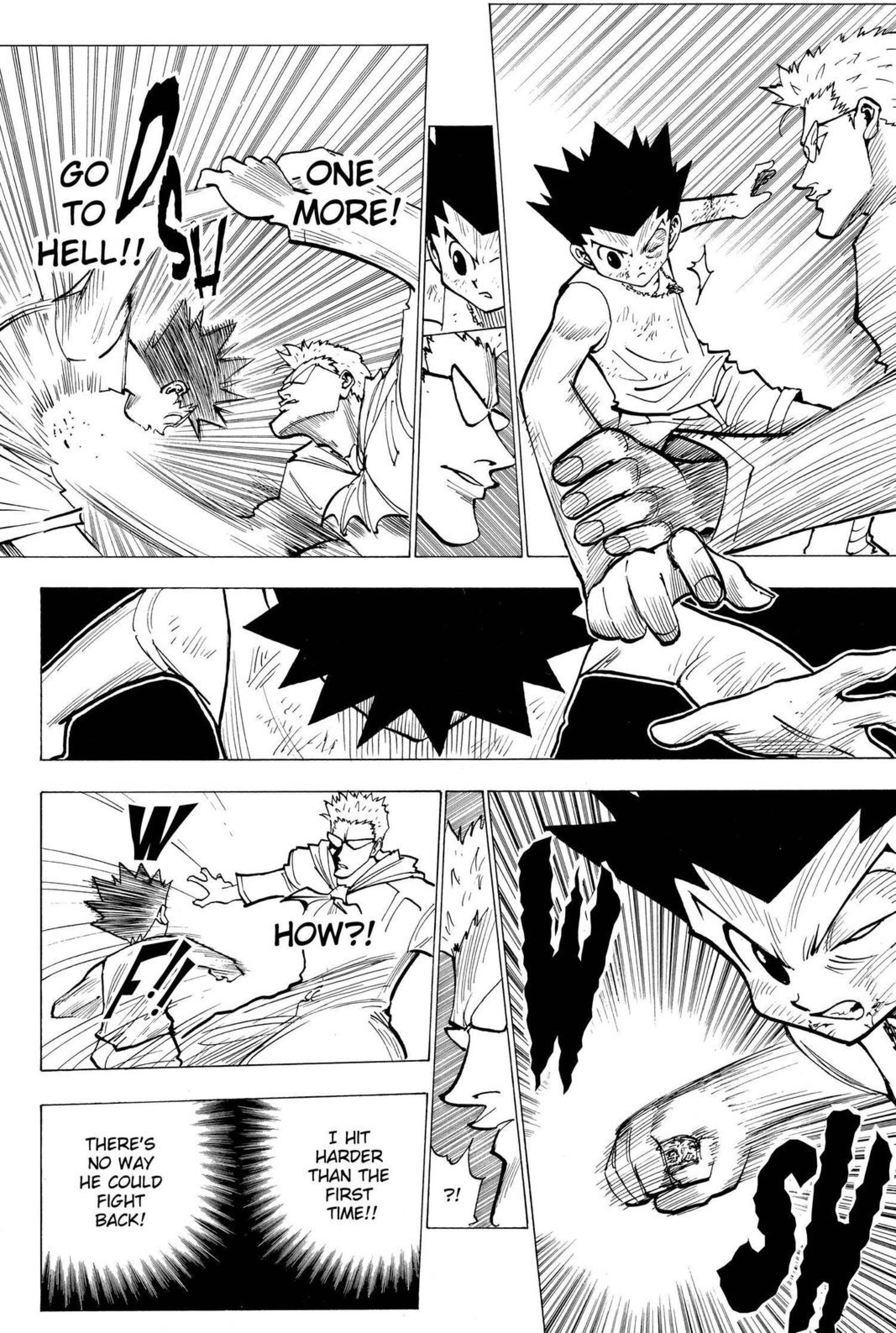
Chapter 179:
Three-Way Struggle: Part 10

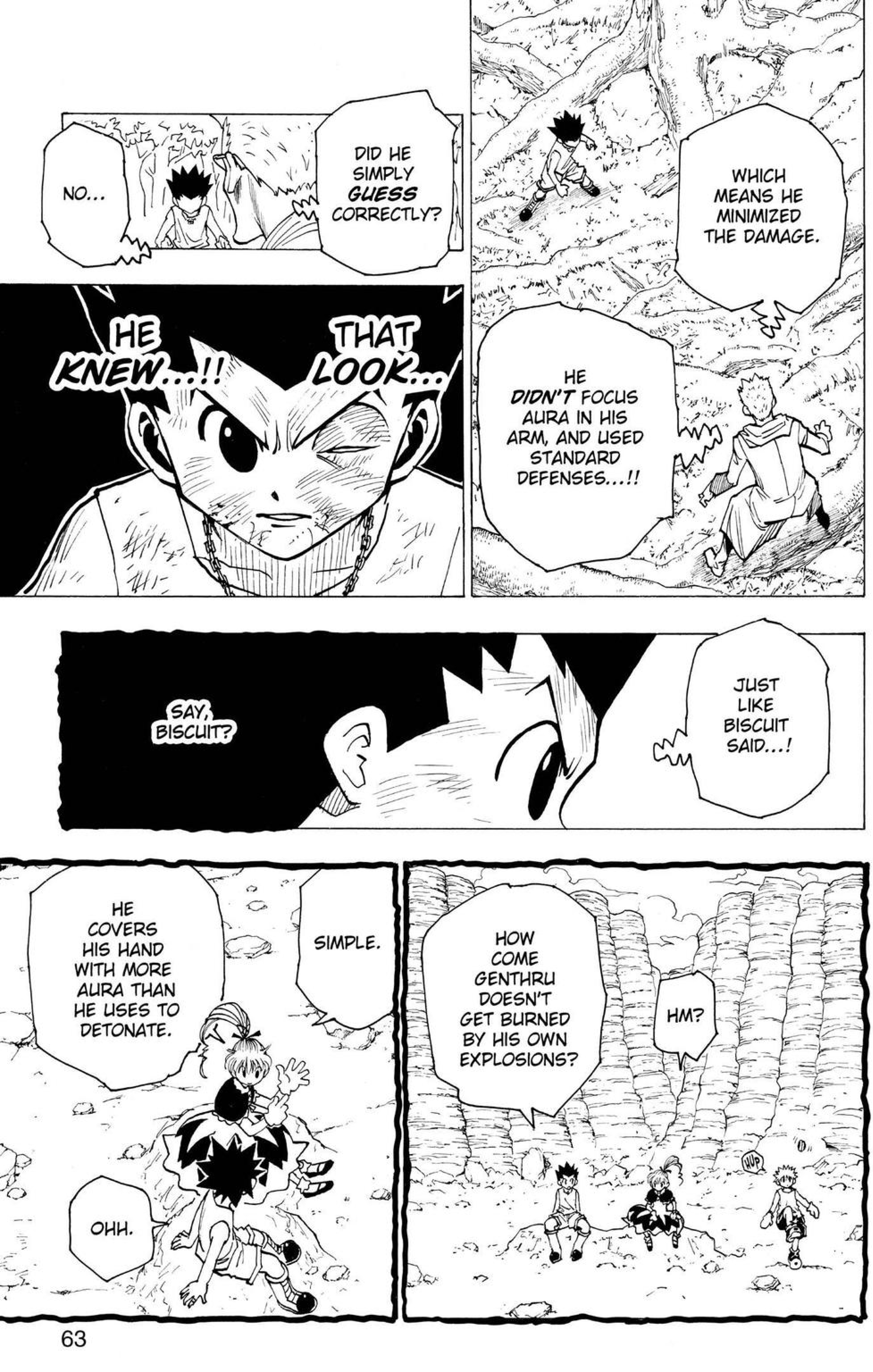

SH
SK
BUT...
I CAN STILL DEFEND AGAINST IT!!
HM.
GYO...
HE INCREASED HIS DEFENSES BY USING GYO TO FOCUS AURA THE MOMENT I GRABBED HIM...
HE MUST'VE SIMULATED THIS EXERCISE CONSIDERABLY. HIS AURA FLOW IS *MUCH* SMOOTHER THAN BEFORE.

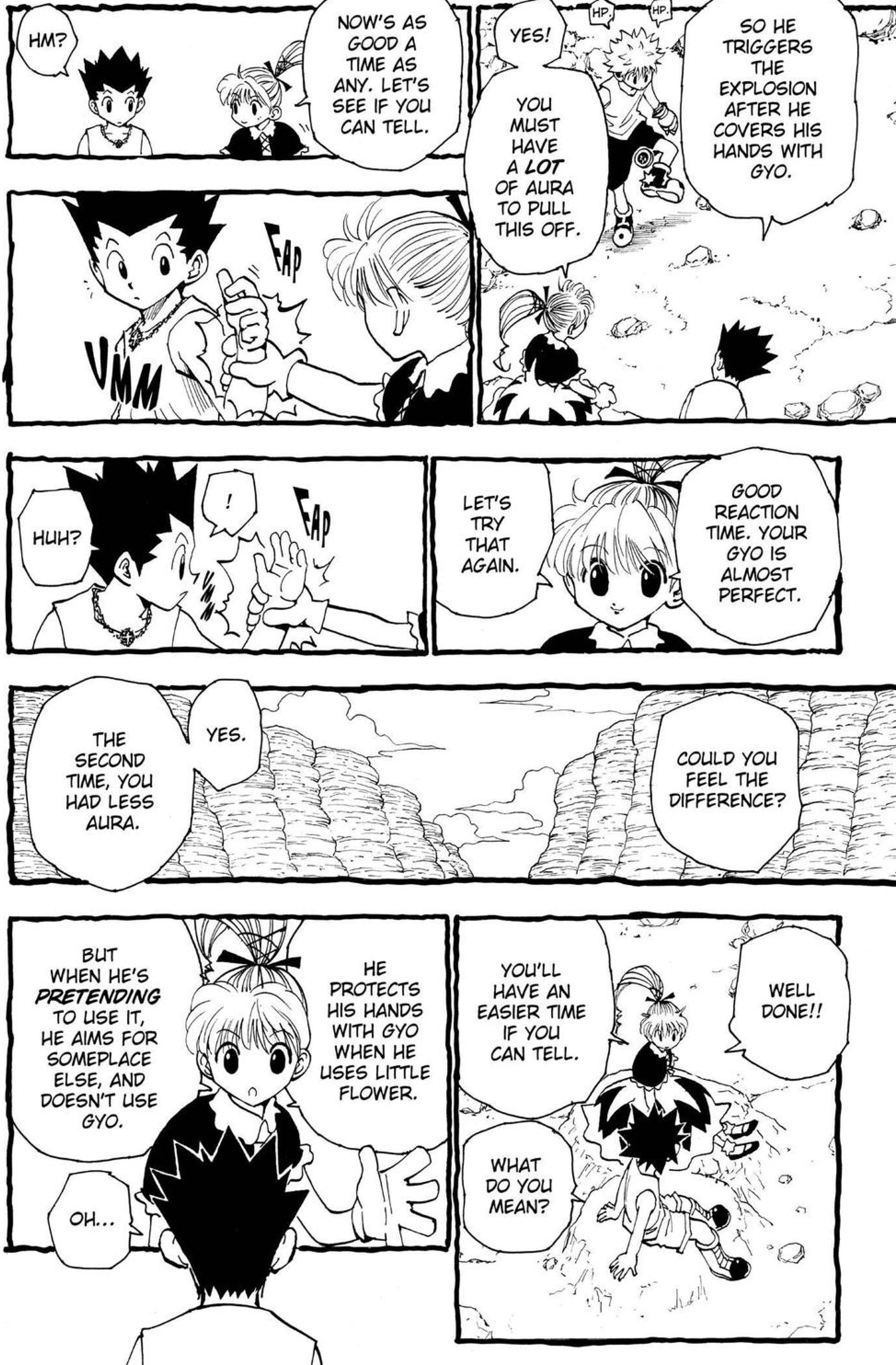

THE FOOL...!!
DON'T ASSUME...
...YOU'VE FIGURED ME OUT!!
UP UP UP UP
UNH!
UP

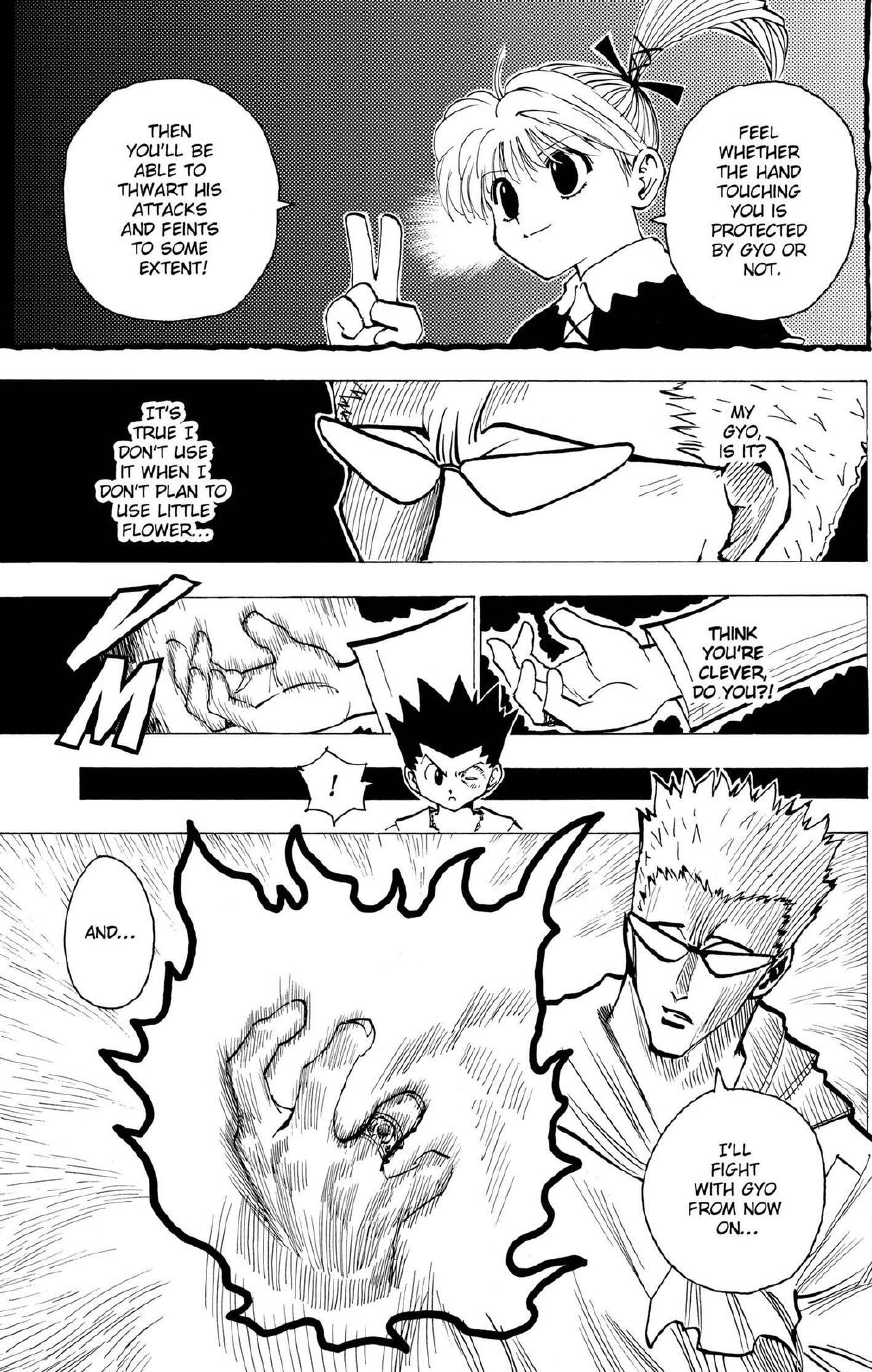

GOTCHA!!
...!!
AGGH!
WHAT?
IT'S JUST A BODY BLOW.
...
HACK!
BLARG!
FOCUS YOUR AURA WHERE YOU'RE GRABBED...
...AND THE REST OF YOUR DEFENSES TAKE A NOSEDIVE.
ALL YOUR PRACTICE WAS POINTLESS...
AND IT BACKFIRED.

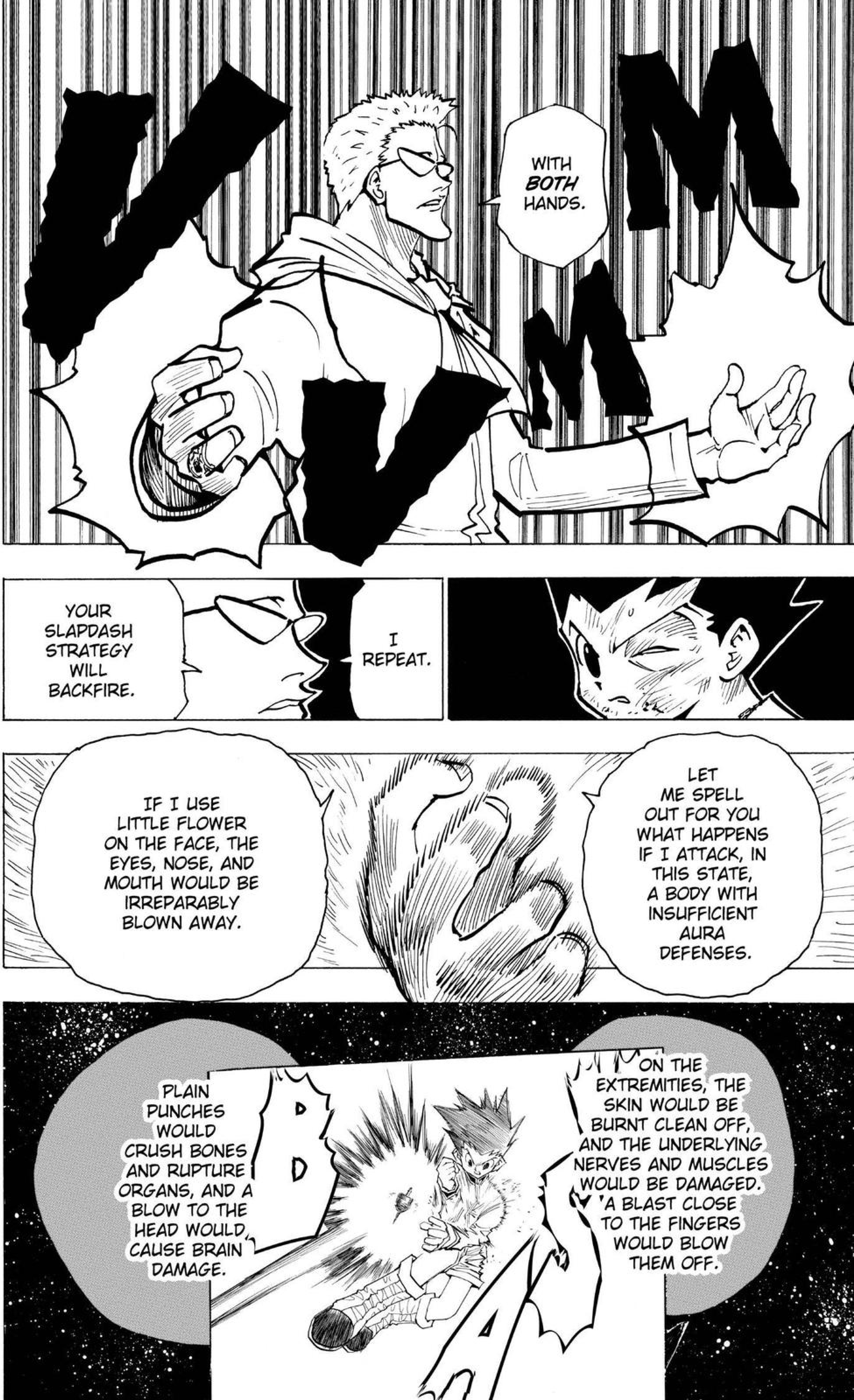

...
KOFF!
HEH.
HA HA...
HEH.
?
JUST LIKE...
...BISCUIT SAID!
...
HMPH.
I'LL WIPE THAT SMILE OFF YOUR FACE.
SHF
GK
THK
BK

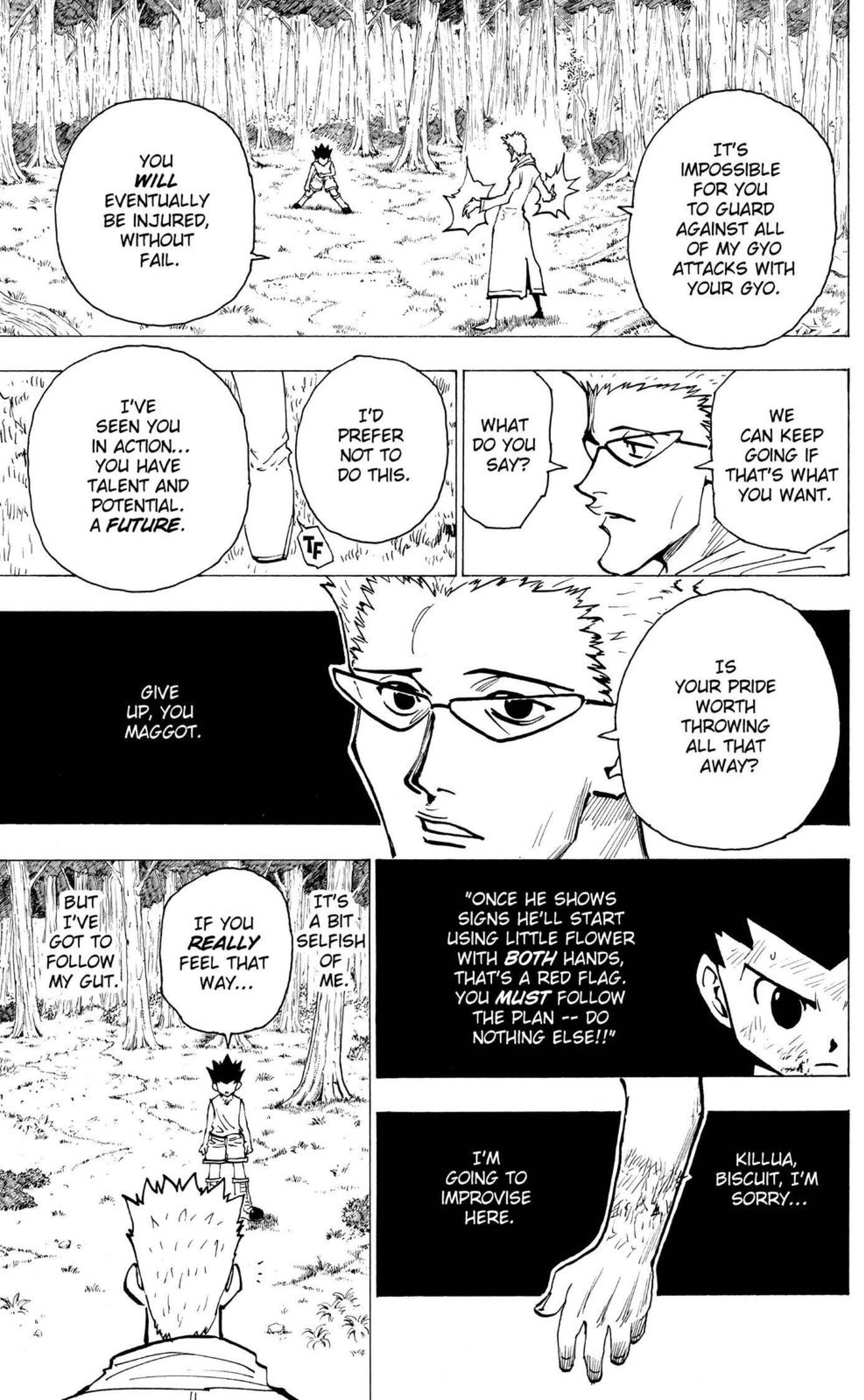

ONE MORE!
DSH
GO TO HELL!!
?!
WSH
HOW?!
WF!!
I HIT HARDER THAN THE FIRST TIME!!
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD FIGHT BACK!

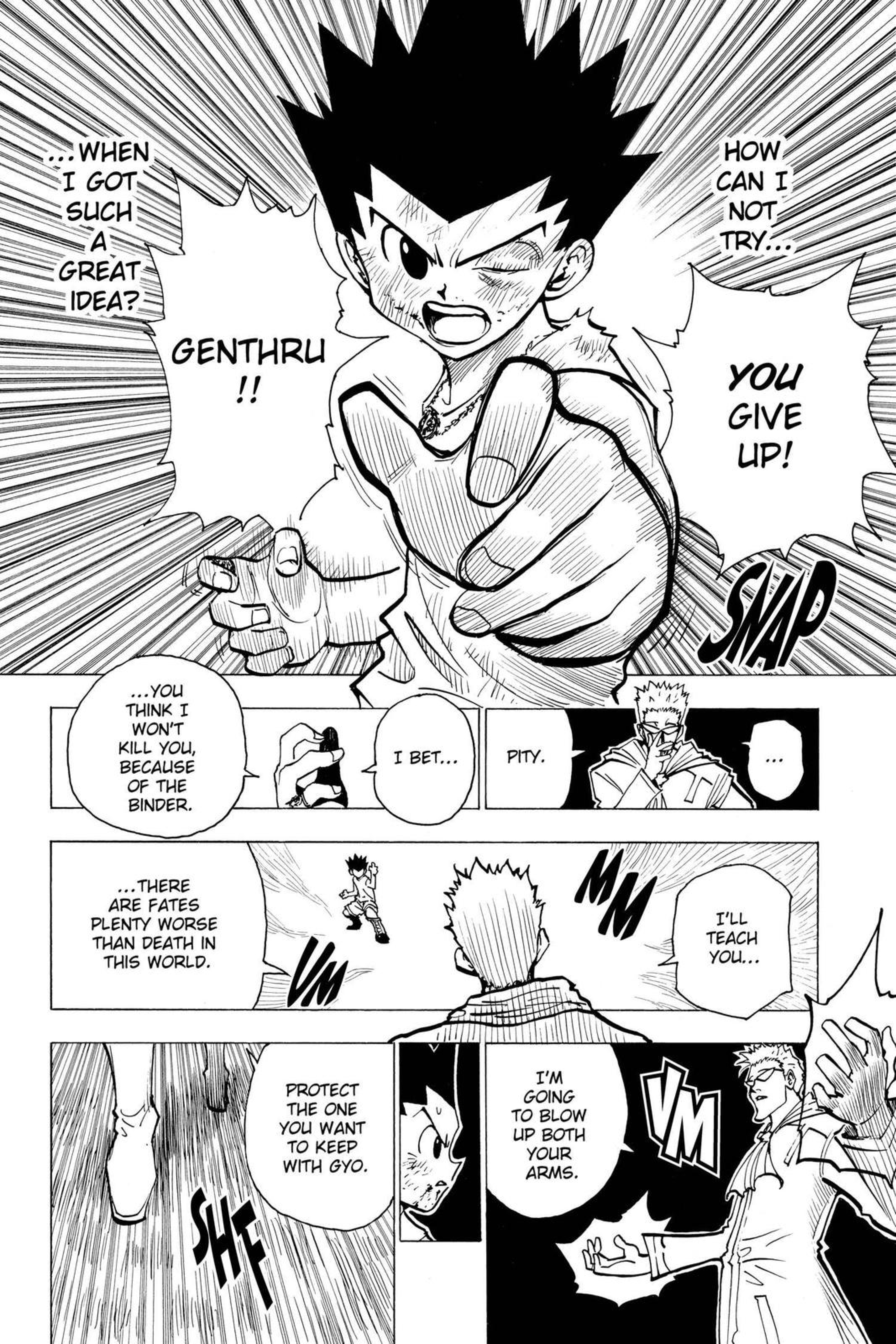

HE DIDN'T FOCUS AURA IN HIS ARM, AND USED STANDARD DEFENSES...!!
WHICH MEANS HE MINIMIZED THE DAMAGE.
DID HE SIMPLY GUESS CORRECTLY?
NO...
THAT LOOK...
HE KNEW...!!
JUST LIKE BISCUIT SAID...!
SAY, BISCUIT?
HM?
HOW COME GENTHRU DOESN'T GET BURNED BY HIS OWN EXPLOSIONS?
HUP
SIMPLE.
HE COVERS HIS HAND WITH MORE AURA THAN HE USES TO DETONATE.
OHH.

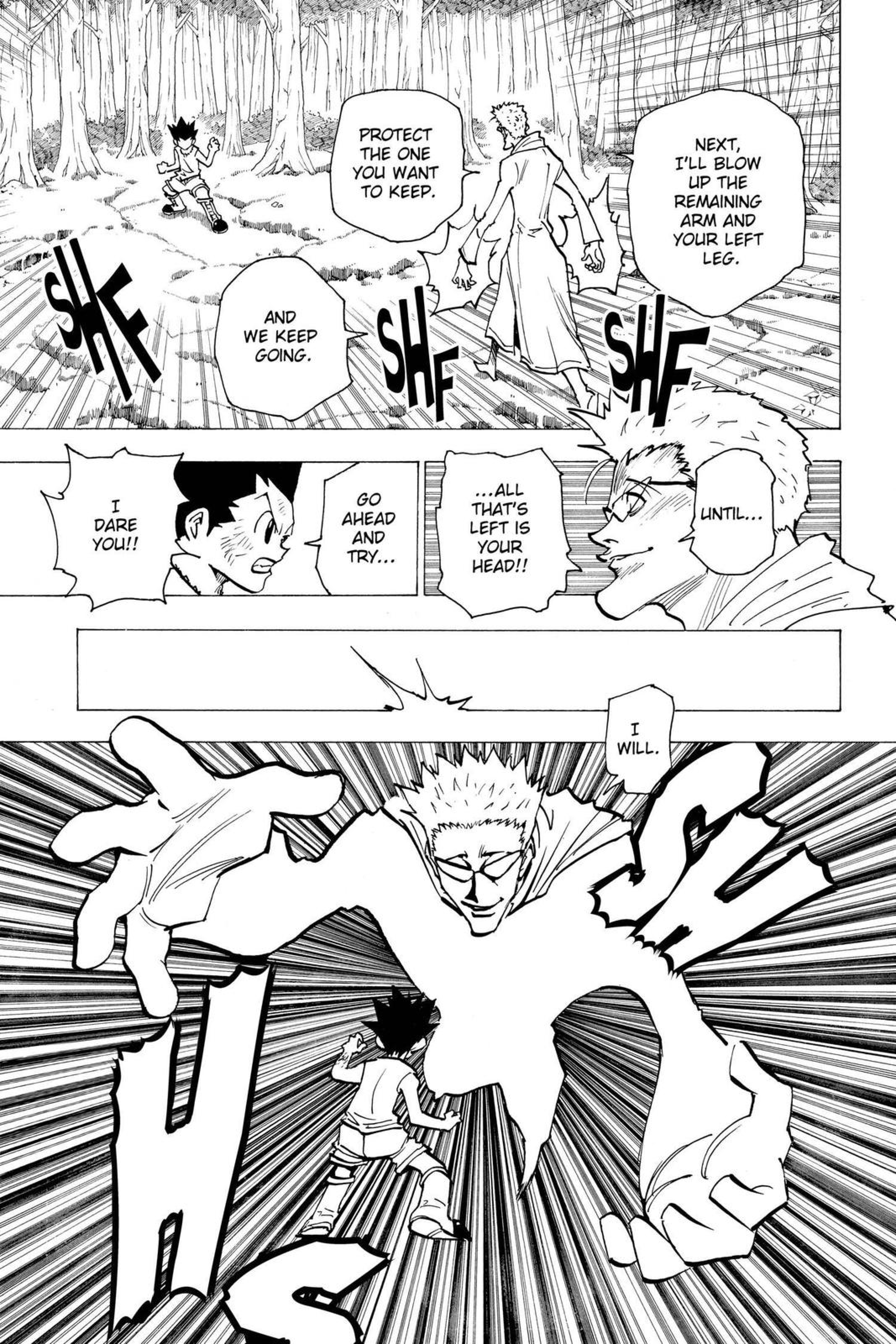

SO HE TRIGGERS THE EXPLOSION AFTER HE COVERS HIS HANDS WITH GYO.
HP.
HP.
YES!
YOU MUST HAVE A **LOT** OF AURA TO PULL THIS OFF.
NOW'S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY. LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN TELL.
HM?
FAP
VMM
GOOD REACTION TIME. YOUR GYO IS ALMOST PERFECT.
LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN.
FAP
!
HUH?
COULD YOU FEEL THE DIFFERENCE?
YES.
THE SECOND TIME, YOU HAD LESS AURA.
WELL DONE!!
YOU'LL HAVE AN EASIER TIME IF YOU CAN TELL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE PROTECTS HIS HANDS WITH GYO WHEN HE USES LITTLE FLOWER.
BUT WHEN HE'S ***PRETENDING*** TO USE IT, HE AIMS FOR SOMEPLACE ELSE, AND DOESN'T USE GYO.
OH...


FEEL WHETHER THE HAND TOUCHING YOU IS PROTECTED BY GYO OR NOT.
THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO THWART HIS ATTACKS AND FEINTS TO SOME EXTENT!
MY GYO, IS IT?
IT'S TRUE I DON'T USE IT WHEN I DON'T PLAN TO USE LITTLE FLOWER...
THINK YOU'RE CLEVER, DO YOU?!
M
!
I'LL FIGHT WITH GYO FROM NOW ON...
AND...

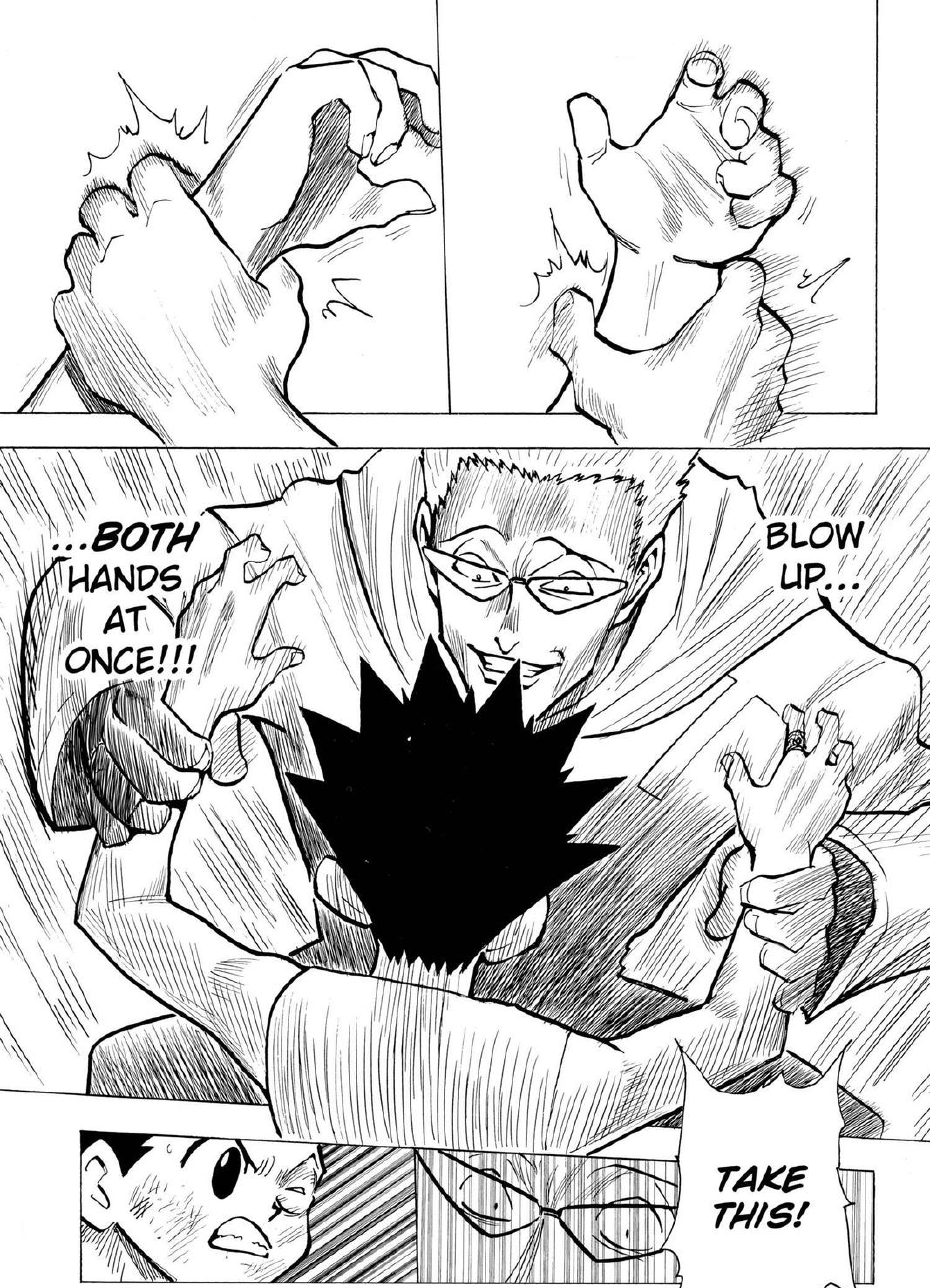

WITH *BOTH* HANDS.
I REPEAT.
YOUR SLAPDASH STRATEGY WILL BACKFIRE.
LET ME SPELL OUT FOR YOU WHAT HAPPENS IF I ATTACK, IN THIS STATE, A BODY WITH INSUFFICIENT AURA DEFENSES.
IF I USE LITTLE FLOWER ON THE FACE, THE EYES, NOSE, AND MOUTH WOULD BE IRREPARABLY BLOWN AWAY.
ON THE EXTREMITIES, THE SKIN WOULD BE BURNT CLEAN OFF, AND THE UNDERLYING NERVES AND MUSCLES WOULD BE DAMAGED. A BLAST CLOSE TO THE FINGERS WOULD BLOW THEM OFF.
PLAIN PUNCHES WOULD CRUSH BONES AND RUPTURE ORGANS, AND A BLOW TO THE HEAD WOULD CAUSE BRAIN DAMAGE.


IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO GUARD AGAINST ALL OF MY GYO ATTACKS WITH YOUR GYO.
YOU *WILL* EVENTUALLY BE INJURED, WITHOUT FAIL.
WE CAN KEEP GOING IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I'D PREFER NOT TO DO THIS.
TF
I'VE SEEN YOU IN ACTION... YOU HAVE TALENT AND POTENTIAL. A *FUTURE*.
IS YOUR PRIDE WORTH THROWING ALL THAT AWAY?
GIVE UP, YOU MAGGOT.
"ONCE HE SHOWS SIGNS HE'LL START USING LITTLE FLOWER WITH *BOTH* HANDS, THAT'S A RED FLAG. YOU *MUST* FOLLOW THE PLAN -- DO NOTHING ELSE!!"
KILLUA, BISCUIT, I'M SORRY...
I'M GOING TO IMPROVISE HERE.
IT'S A BIT SELFISH OF ME.
IF YOU *REALLY* FEEL THAT WAY...
BUT I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW MY GUT.


HOW CAN I NOT TRY...
...WHEN I GOT SUCH A GREAT IDEA?
GENTHRU!!
YOU GIVE UP!
SNAP
...
PITY.
I BET...
...YOU THINK I WON'T KILL YOU, BECAUSE OF THE BINDER.
I'LL TEACH YOU...
MM
VM
...THERE ARE FATES PLENTY WORSE THAN DEATH IN THIS WORLD.
VM
I'M GOING TO BLOW UP BOTH YOUR ARMS.
PROTECT THE ONE YOU WANT TO KEEP WITH GYO.
SHF

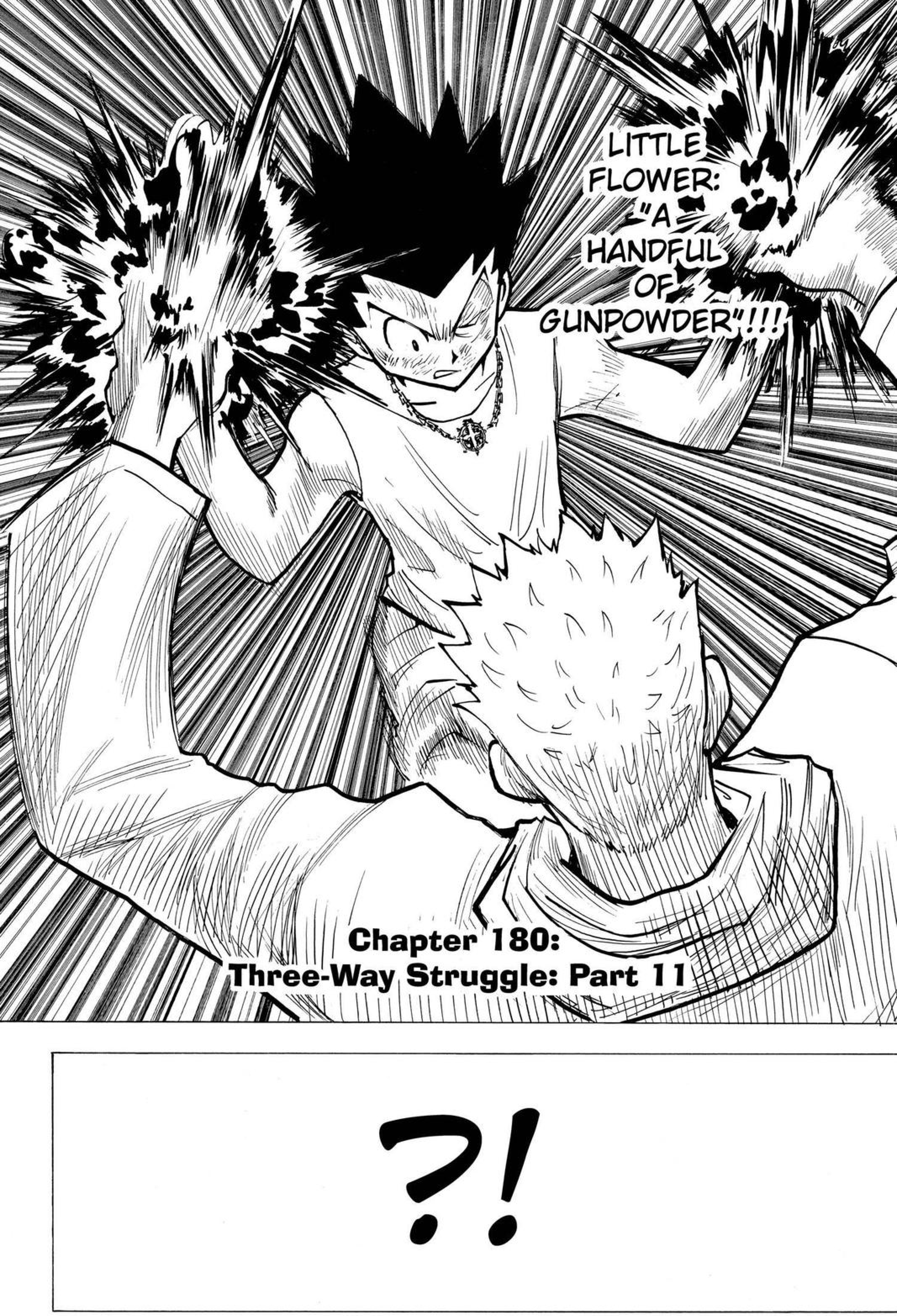

NEXT, I'LL BLOW UP THE REMAINING ARM AND YOUR LEFT LEG.
PROTECT THE ONE YOU WANT TO KEEP.
AND WE KEEP GOING.
SHF
SHF
SHF
UNTIL...
...ALL THAT'S LEFT IS YOUR HEAD!!
GO AHEAD AND TRY...
I DARE YOU!!
I WILL.

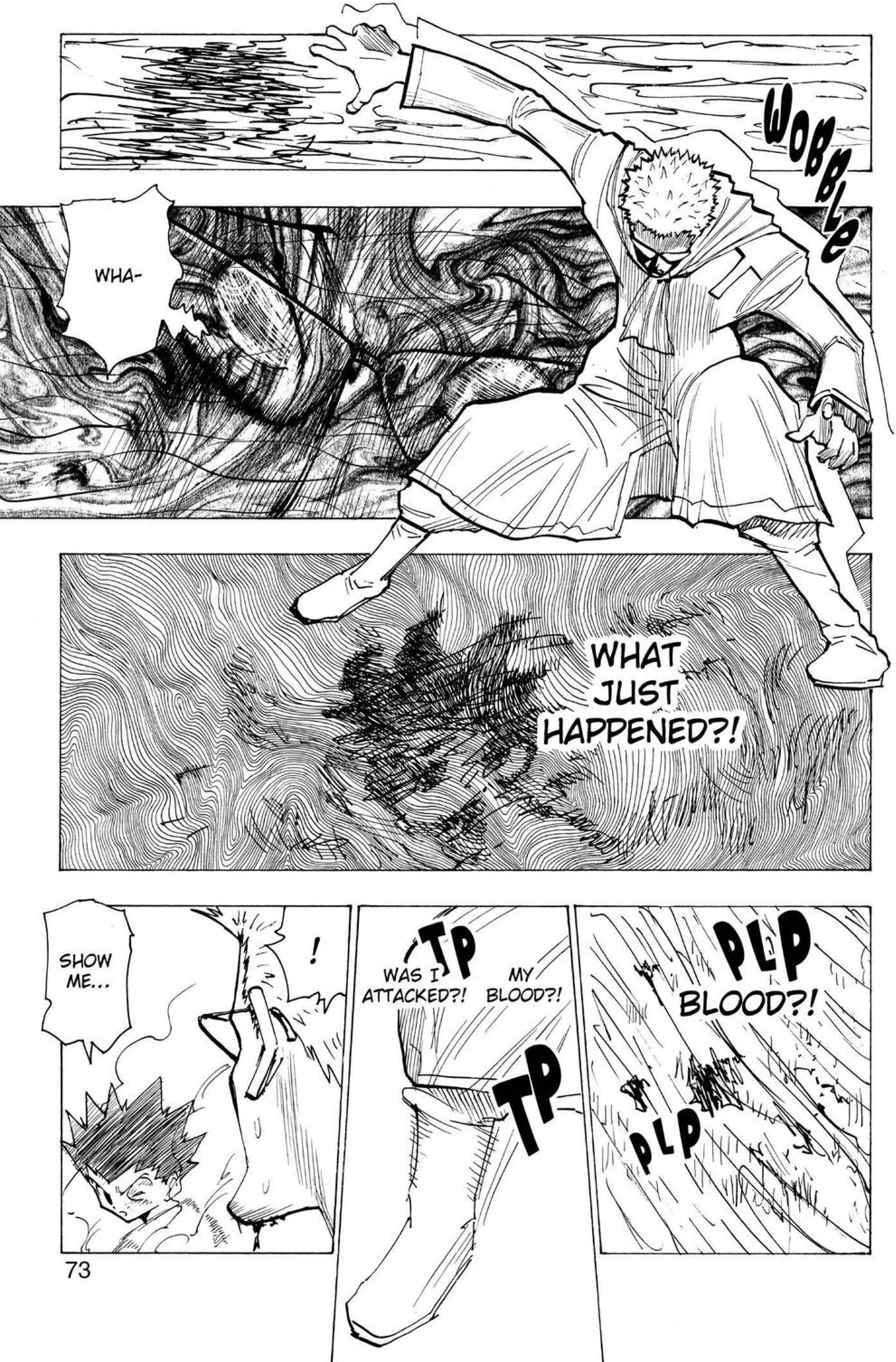
HSS

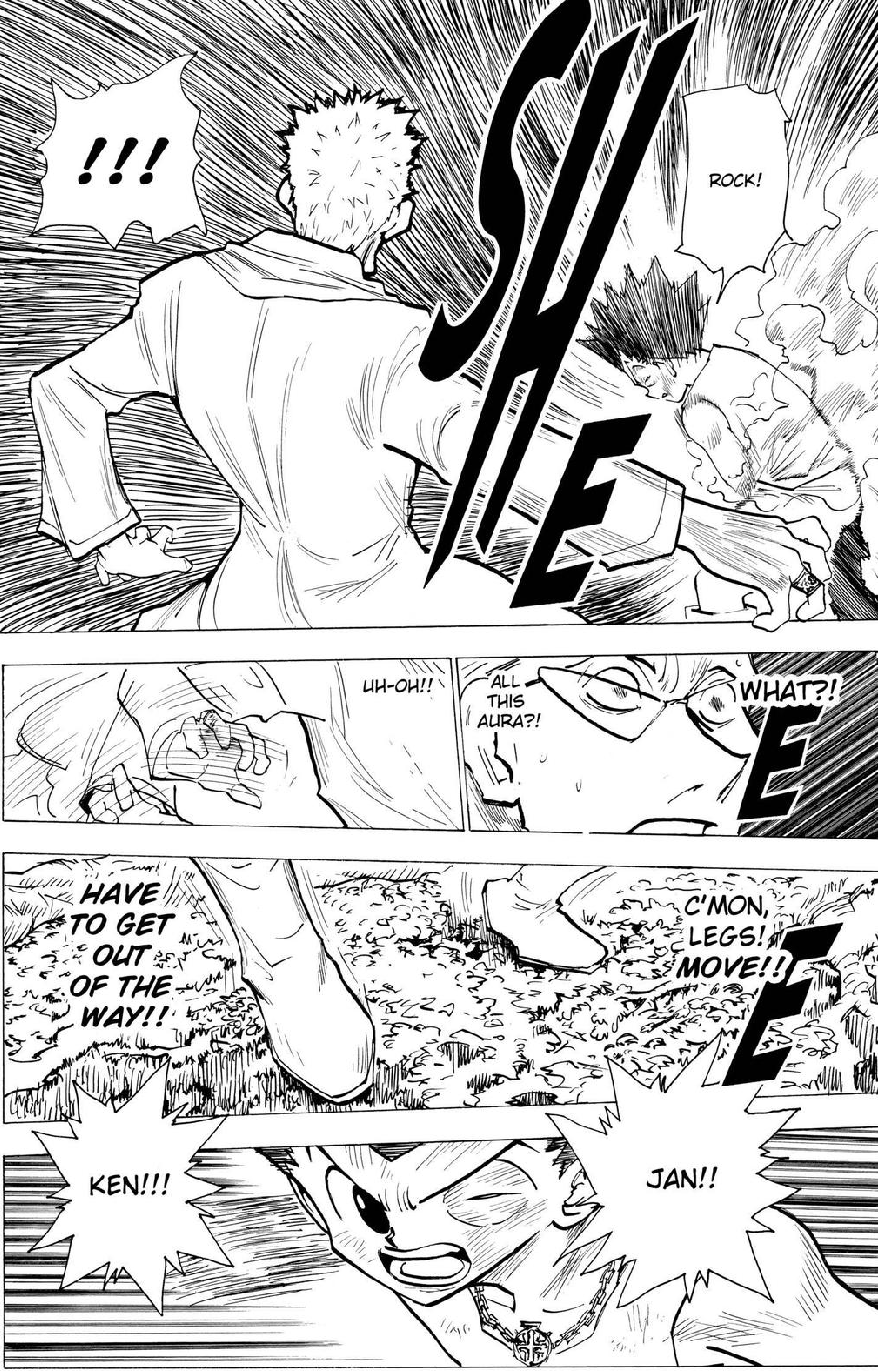

BLOW UP...
...BOTH HANDS AT ONCE!!!
TAKE THIS!

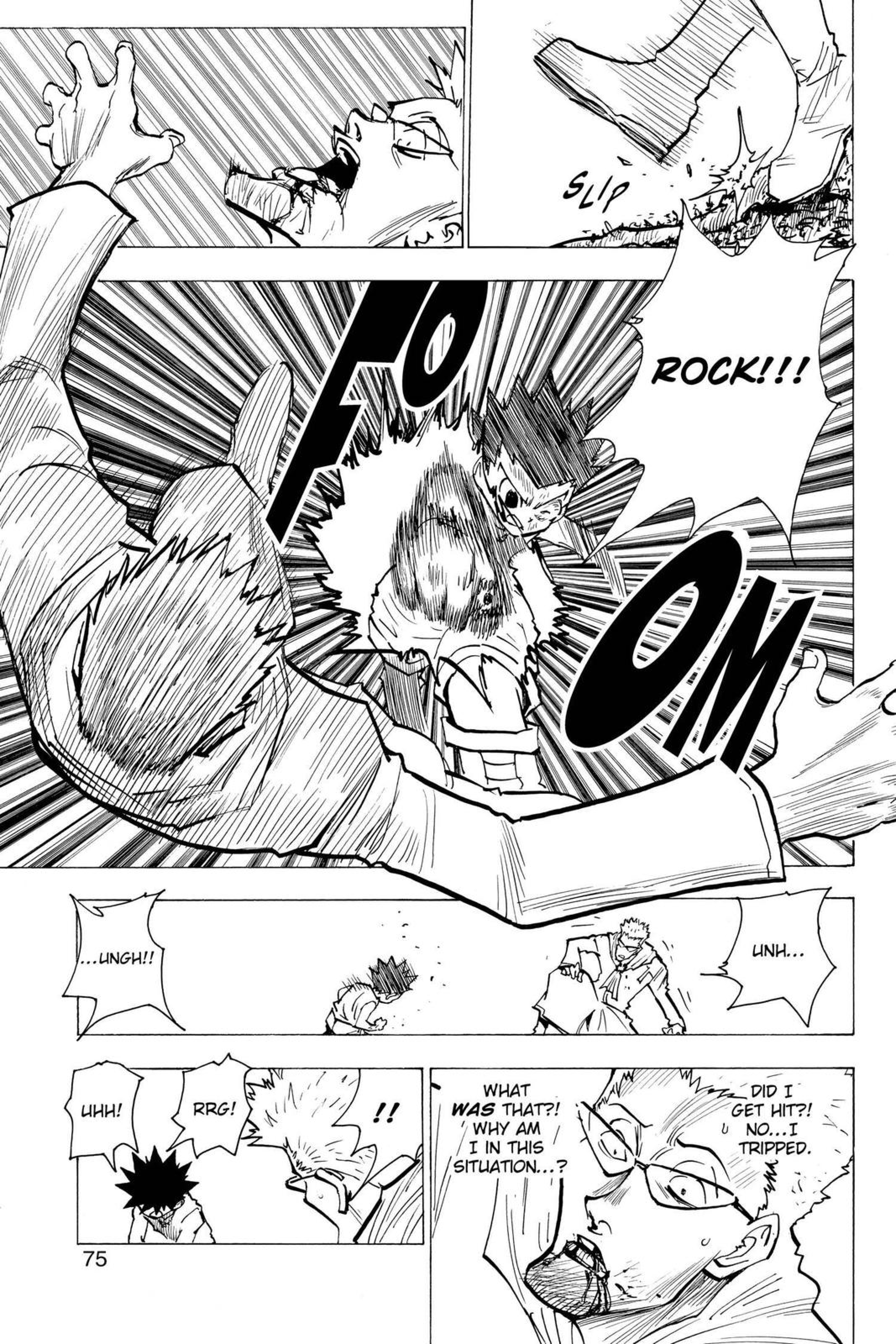
Chapter 180: Three-Way Struggle: Part 11

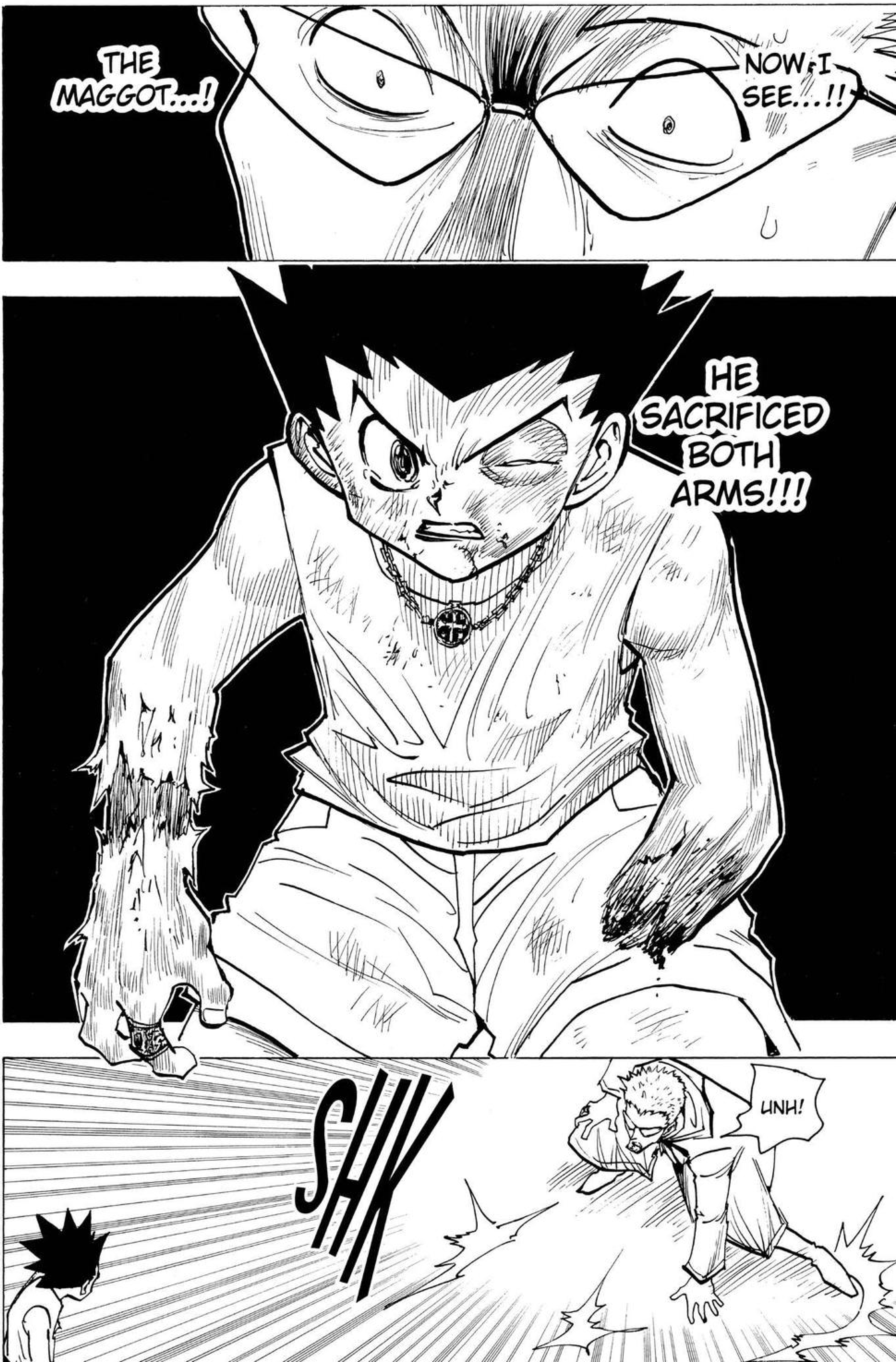
Chapter 180:
Three-Way Struggle: Part 11

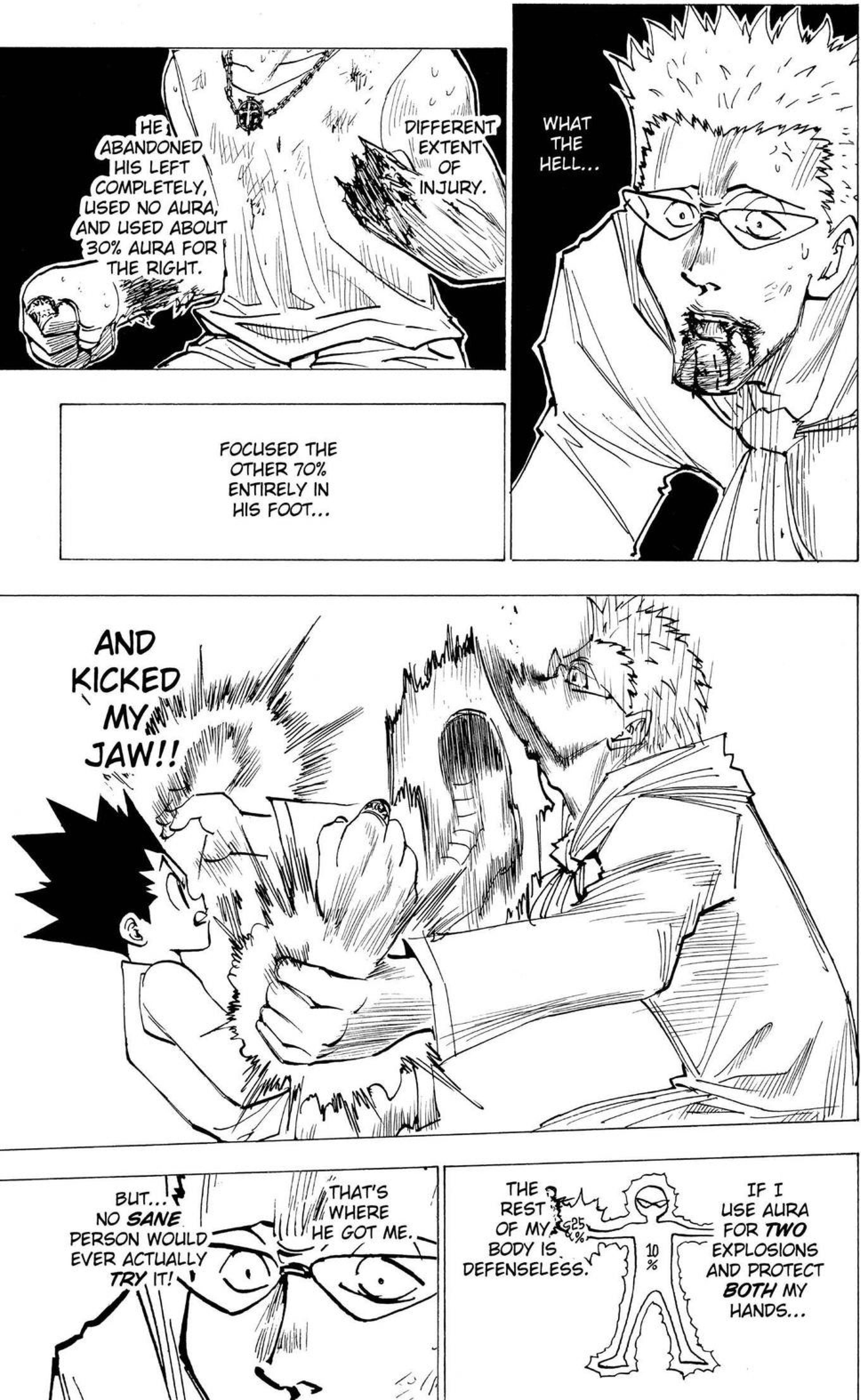

LITTLE FLOWER: "A HANDFUL OF GUNPOWDER"!!!
?!

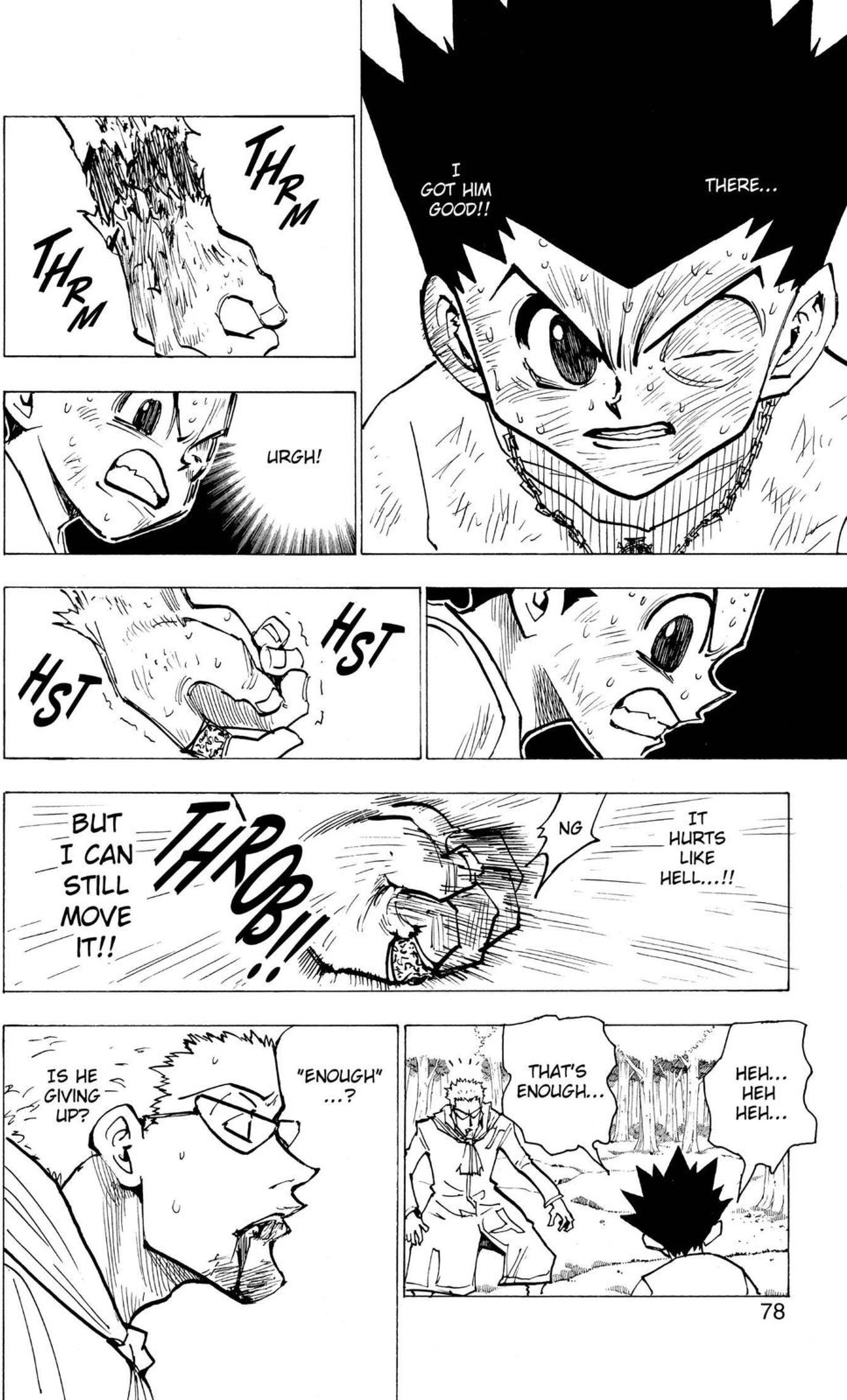

WOBBLE
WHA-
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
PLP
BLOOD?!
PLP
MY BLOOD?!
TP
WAS I ATTACKED?!
TP
!
SHOW ME...

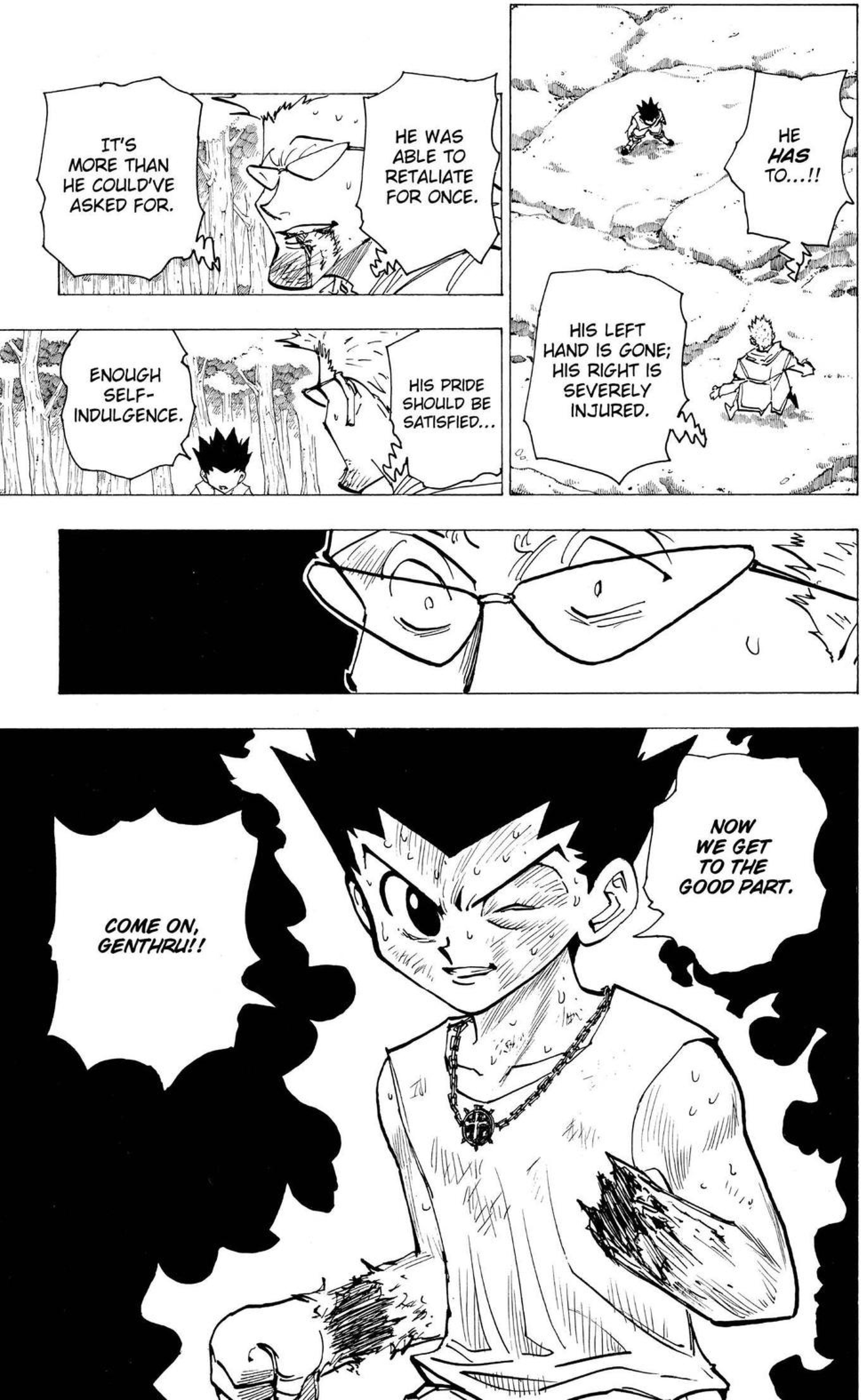

ROCK!
!!!
SHE
WHAT?!
ALL THIS AURA?!
E
UH-OH!!
C'MON, LEGS! MOVE!!
E
HAVE TO GET OUT OF THE WAY!!
JAN!!
KEN!!!

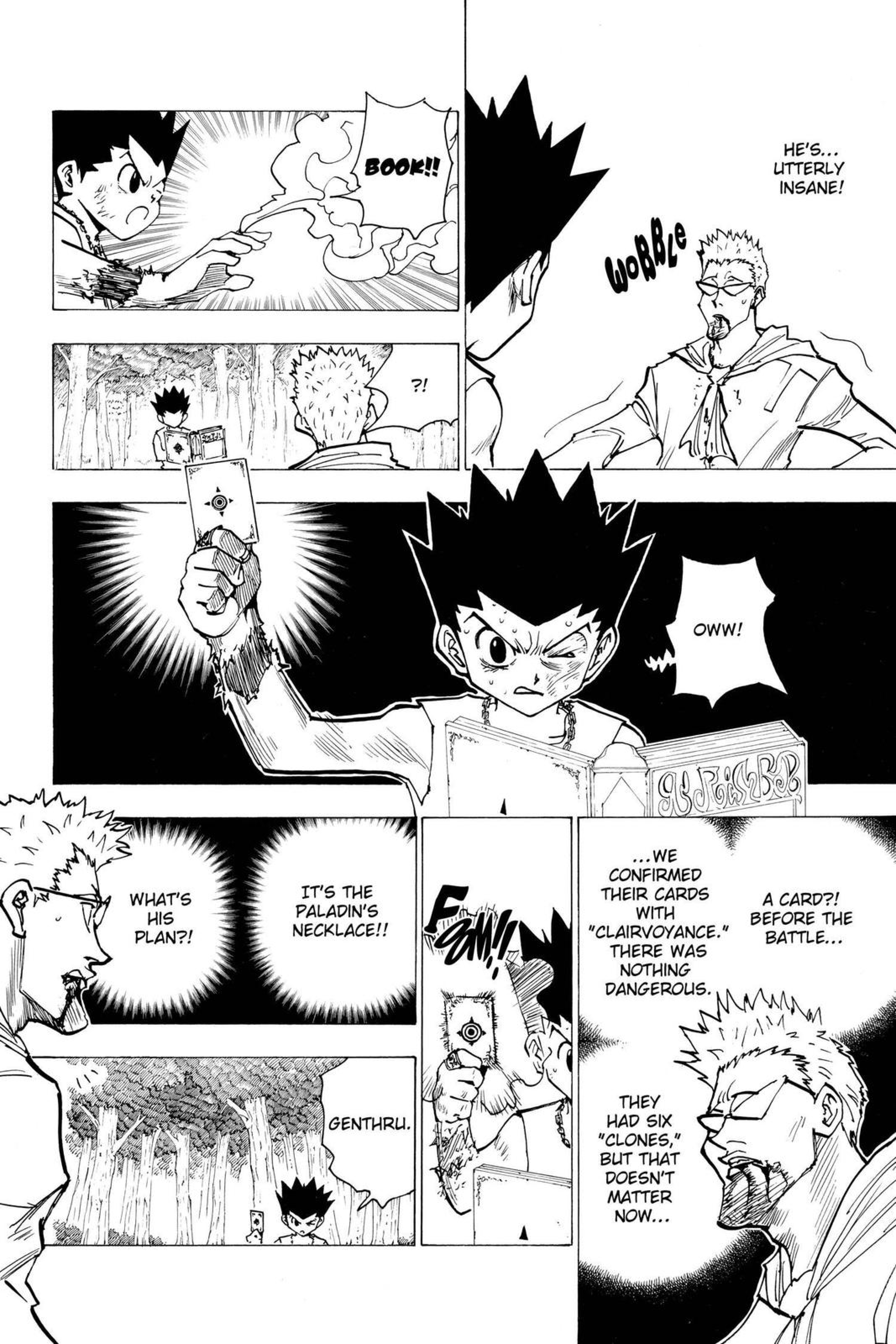

SLIP
ROCK!!!
POOM
UNH...
...UNGH!!
DID I GET HIT?! NO...I TRIPPED.
WHAT *WAS* THAT?! WHY AM I IN THIS SITUATION...?
!!
RRG!
UHH!

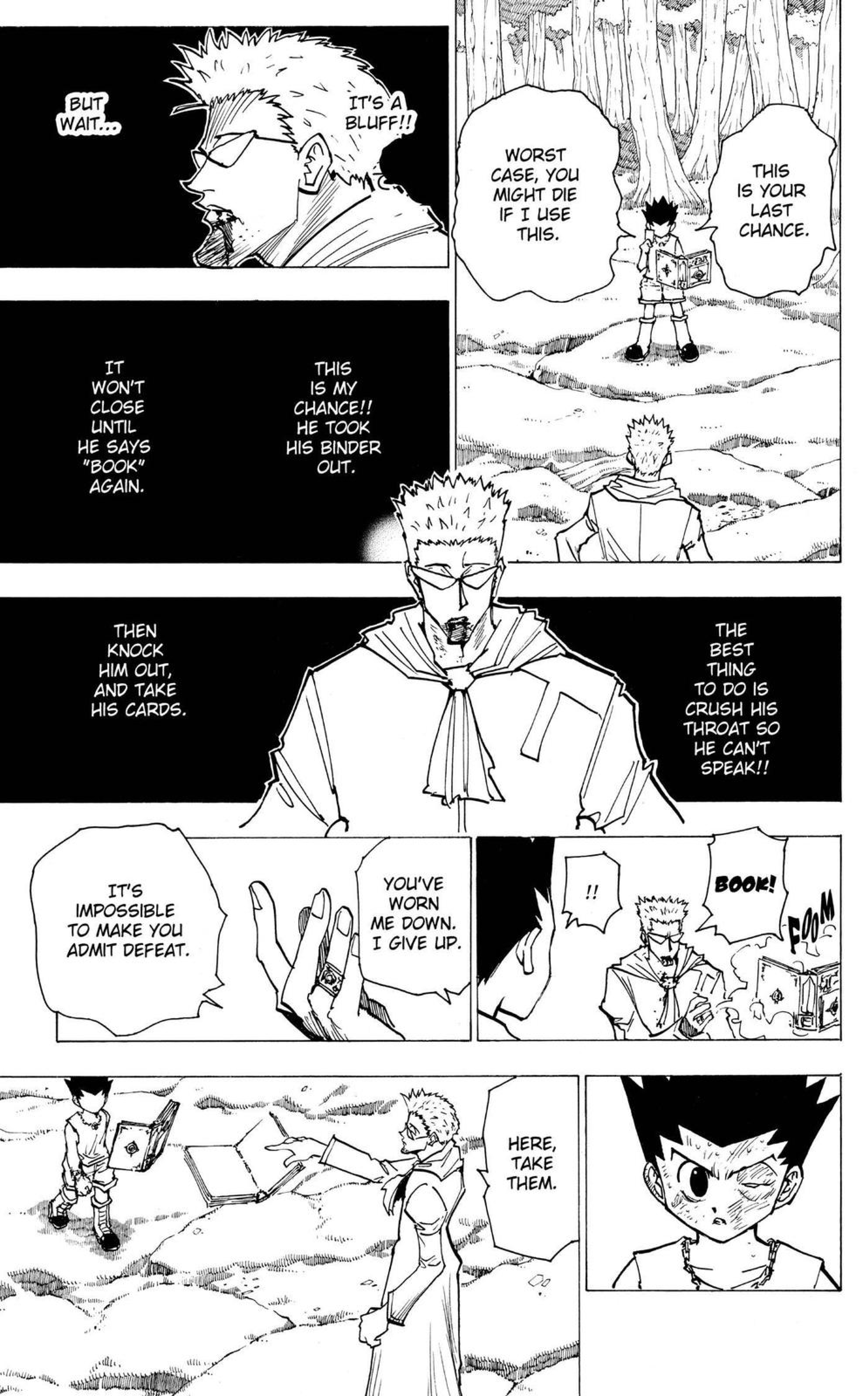

NOW I SEE...!!
THE MAGGOT...!
HE SACRIFICED BOTH ARMS!!!
UNH!
SHK

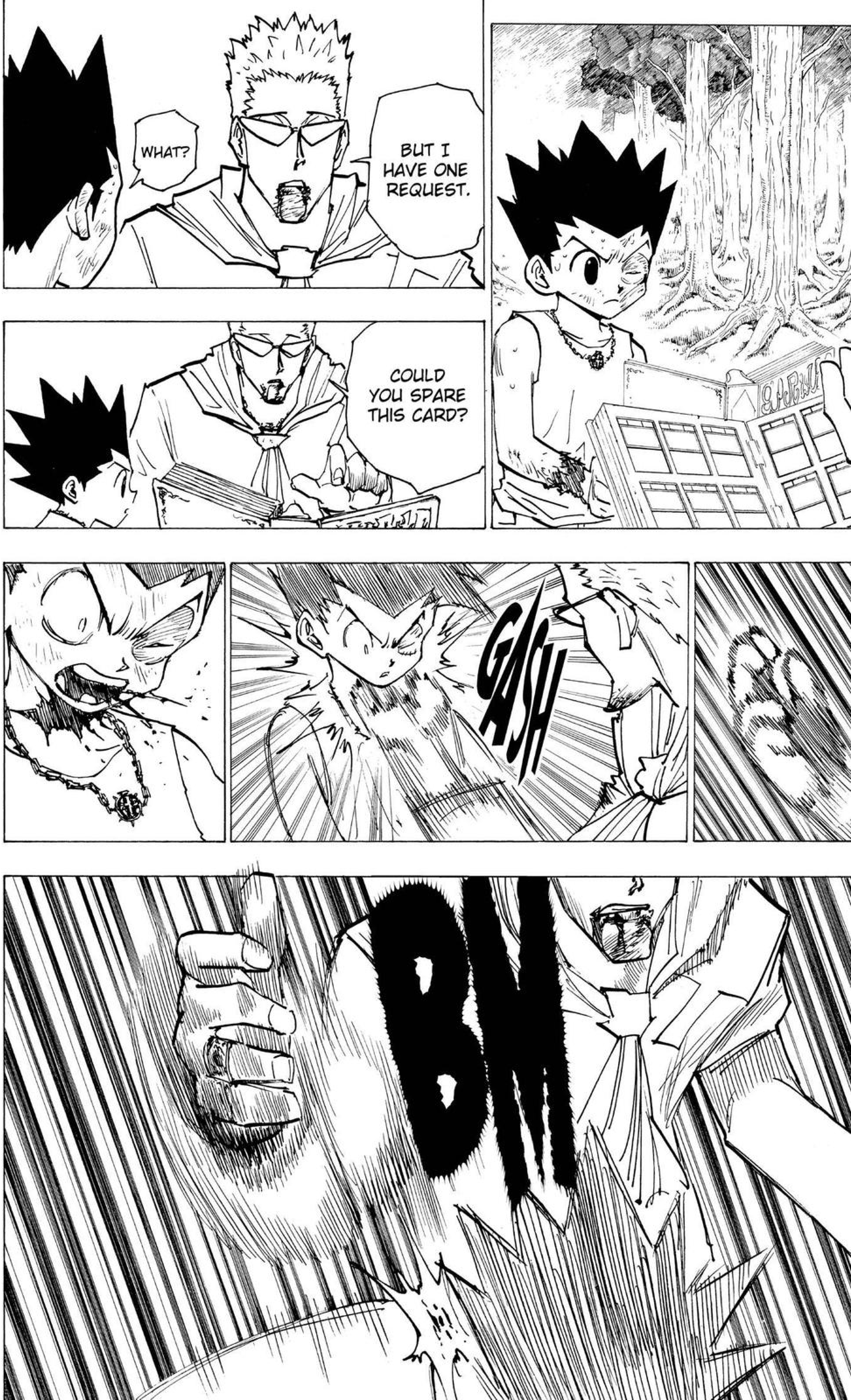

HE ABANDONED HIS LEFT COMPLETELY, USED NO AURA, AND USED ABOUT 30% AURA FOR THE RIGHT.
DIFFERENT EXTENT OF INJURY.
FOCUSED THE OTHER 70% ENTIRELY IN HIS FOOT...
WHAT THE HELL...
AND KICKED MY JAW!!
BUT... NO *SANE* PERSON WOULD EVER ACTUALLY *TRY* IT!
THAT'S WHERE HE GOT ME.
IF I USE AURA FOR *TWO* EXPLOSIONS AND PROTECT *BOTH* MY HANDS...
THE REST OF MY BODY IS DEFENSELESS.
25%
10%

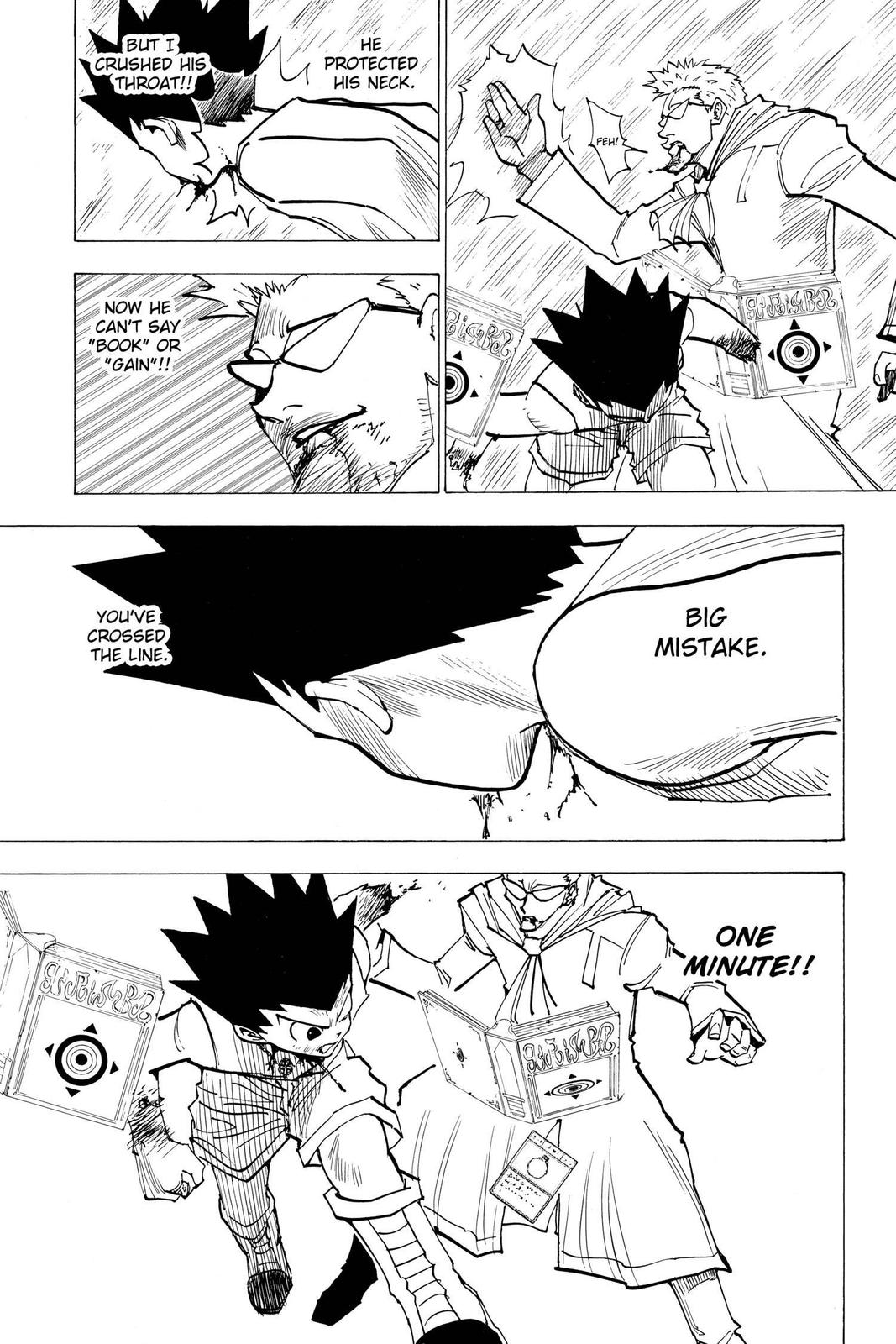

THERE...
I GOT HIM GOOD!!
THRM
THRM
URGH!
HST
HST
IT HURTS LIKE HELL...!!
NG
THROB!!
BUT I CAN STILL MOVE IT!!
HEH... HEH HEH...
THAT'S ENOUGH...
"ENOUGH" ...?
IS HE GIVING UP?

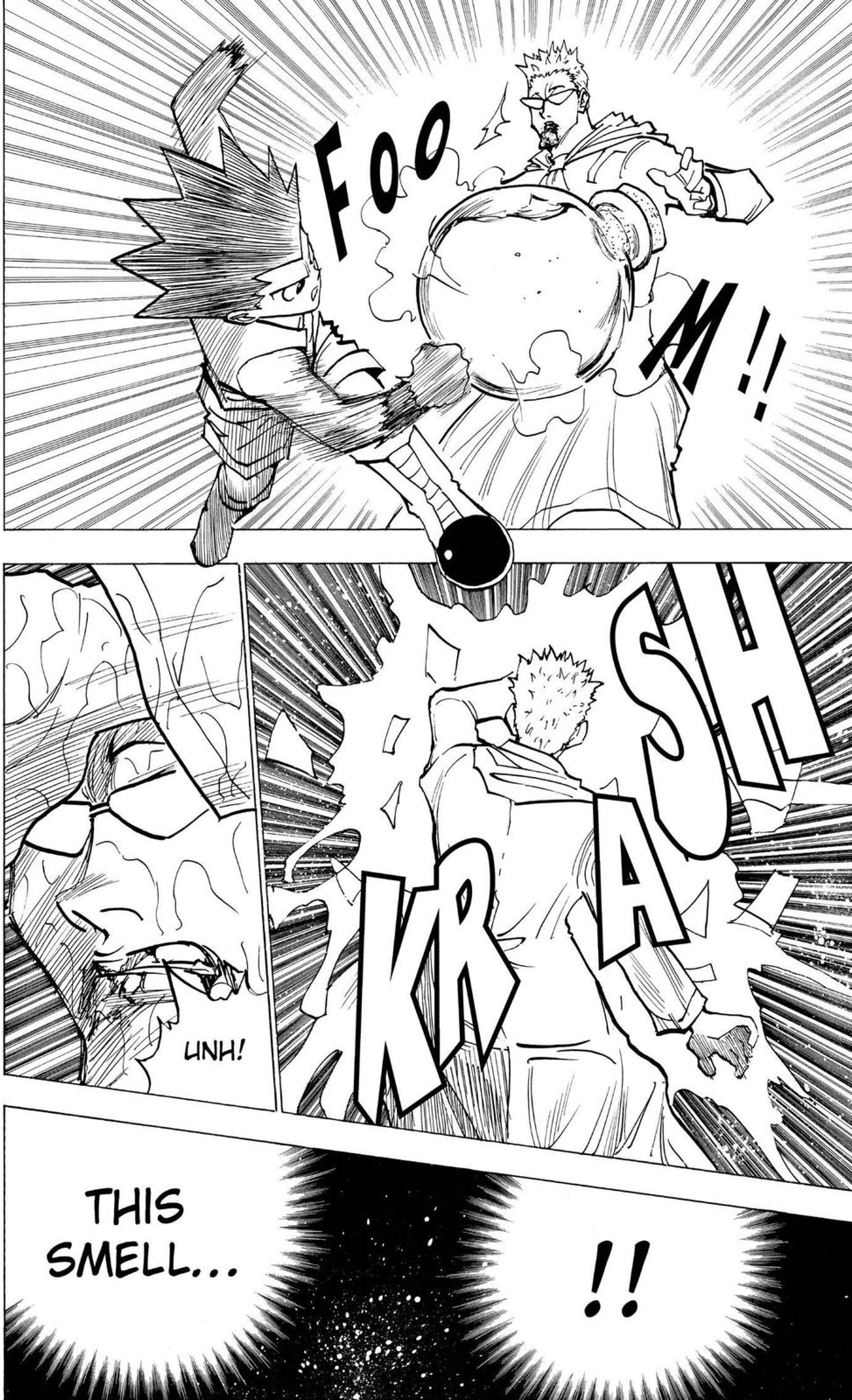

HE *HAS* TO...!!
HIS LEFT HAND IS GONE; HIS RIGHT IS SEVERELY INJURED.
HE WAS ABLE TO RETALIATE FOR ONCE.
IT'S MORE THAN HE COULD'VE ASKED FOR.
HIS PRIDE SHOULD BE SATISFIED...
ENOUGH SELF-INDULGENCE.
NOW WE GET TO THE GOOD PART.
COME ON, GENTHRU!!

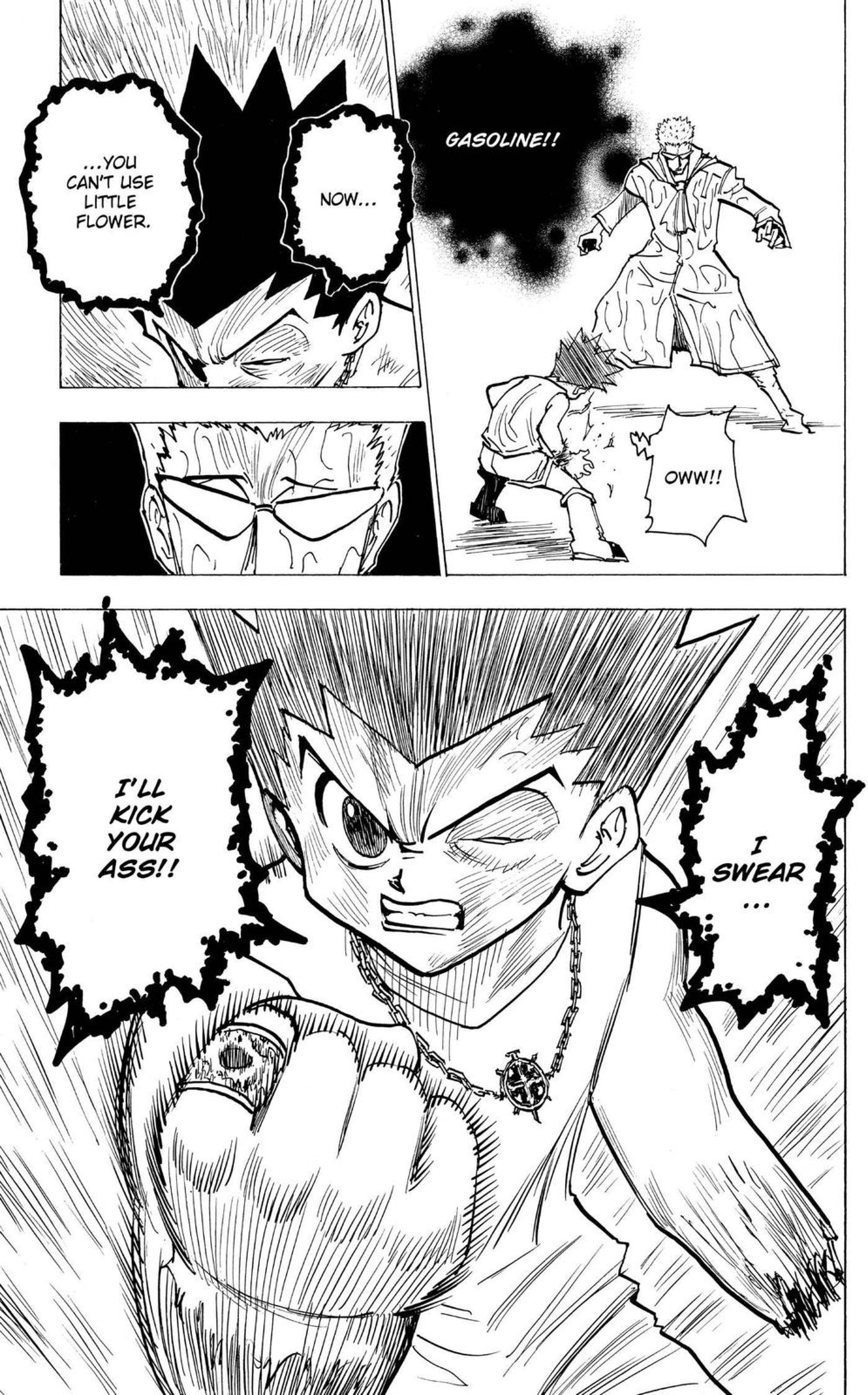

HE'S... UTTERLY INSANE!
WOBBLE
BOOK!!
?!
OWW!
A CARD?! BEFORE THE BATTLE...
...WE CONFIRMED THEIR CARDS WITH "CLAIRVOYANCE." THERE WAS NOTHING DANGEROUS.
THEY HAD SIX "CLONES," BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW...
FOOM!!
IT'S THE PALADIN'S NECKLACE!!
WHAT'S HIS PLAN?!
GENTHRU.


THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE.
WORST CASE, YOU MIGHT DIE IF I USE THIS.
IT'S A BLUFF!!
BUT WAIT...
THIS IS MY CHANCE!! HE TOOK HIS BINDER OUT.
IT WON'T CLOSE UNTIL HE SAYS "BOOK" AGAIN.
THE BEST THING TO DO IS CRUSH HIS THROAT SO HE CAN'T SPEAK!!
THEN KNOCK HIM OUT, AND TAKE HIS CARDS.
BOOK!
FOOM
!!
YOU'VE WORN ME DOWN. I GIVE UP.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE YOU ADMIT DEFEAT.
HERE, TAKE THEM.

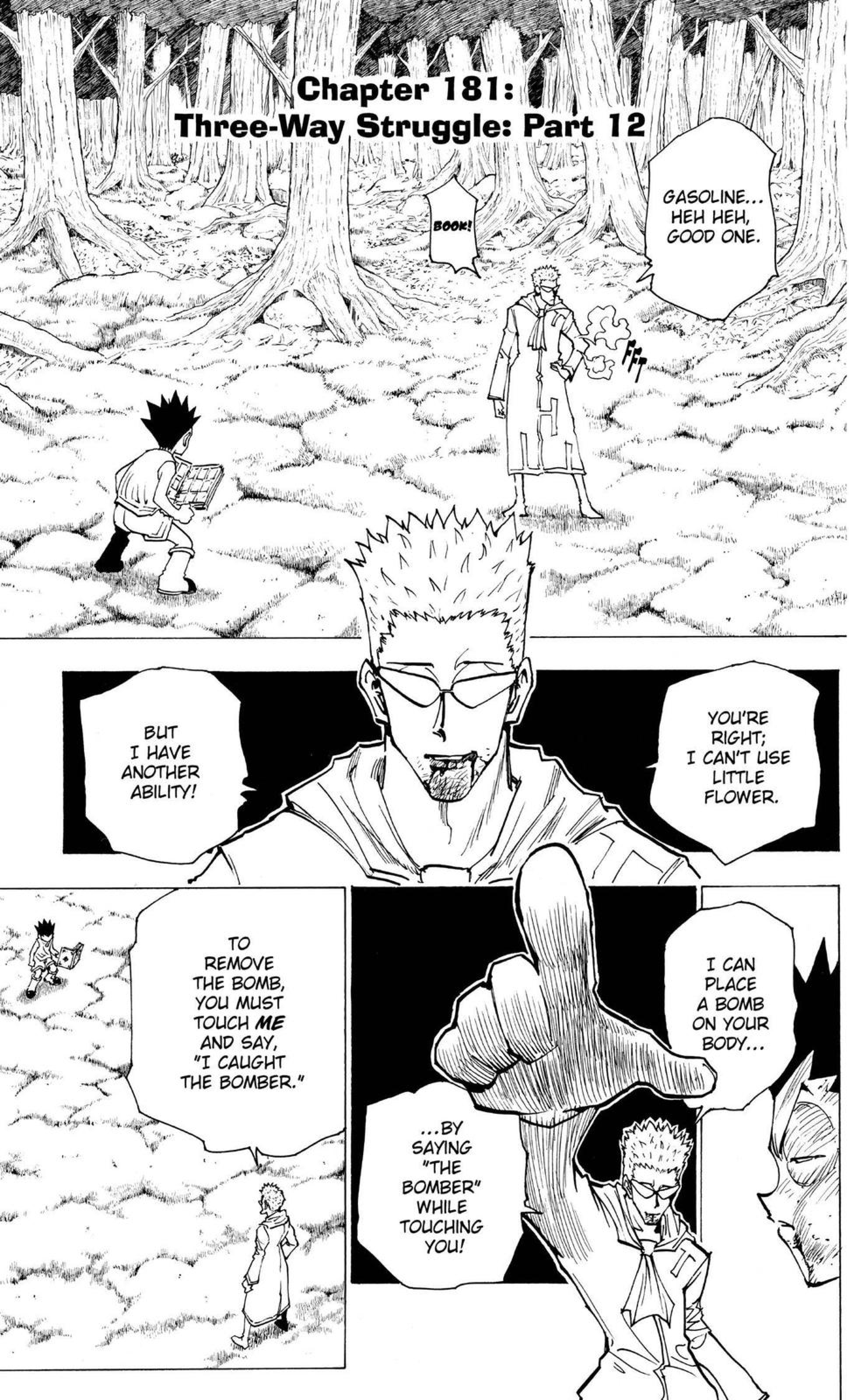

BUT I HAVE ONE REQUEST.
WHAT?
COULD YOU SPARE THIS CARD?
GASH
BM

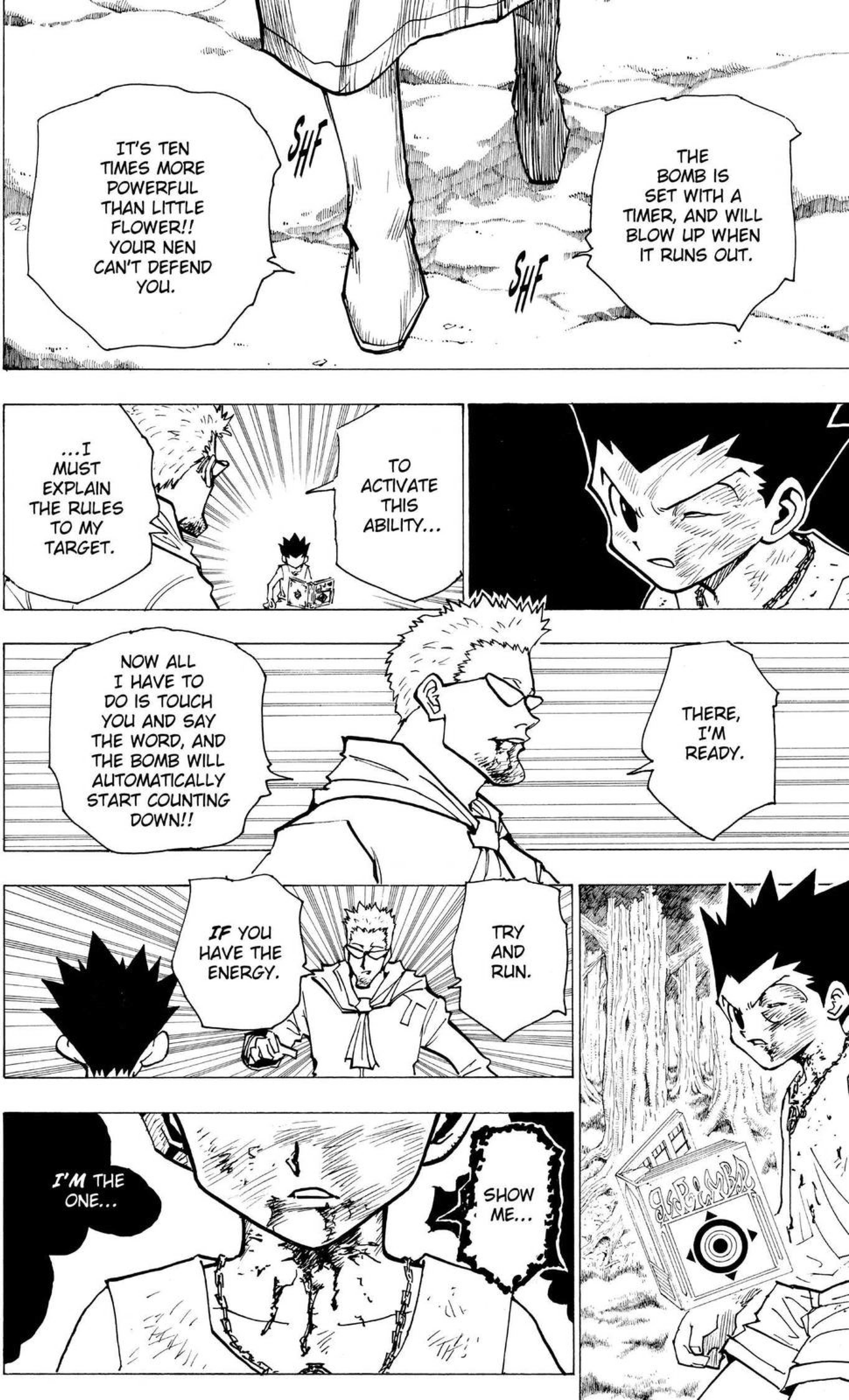

FEH!
BUT I CRUSHED HIS THROAT!!
HE PROTECTED HIS NECK.
NOW HE CAN'T SAY "BOOK" OR "GAIN"!!
BIG MISTAKE.
YOU'VE CROSSED THE LINE.
ONE MINUTE!!

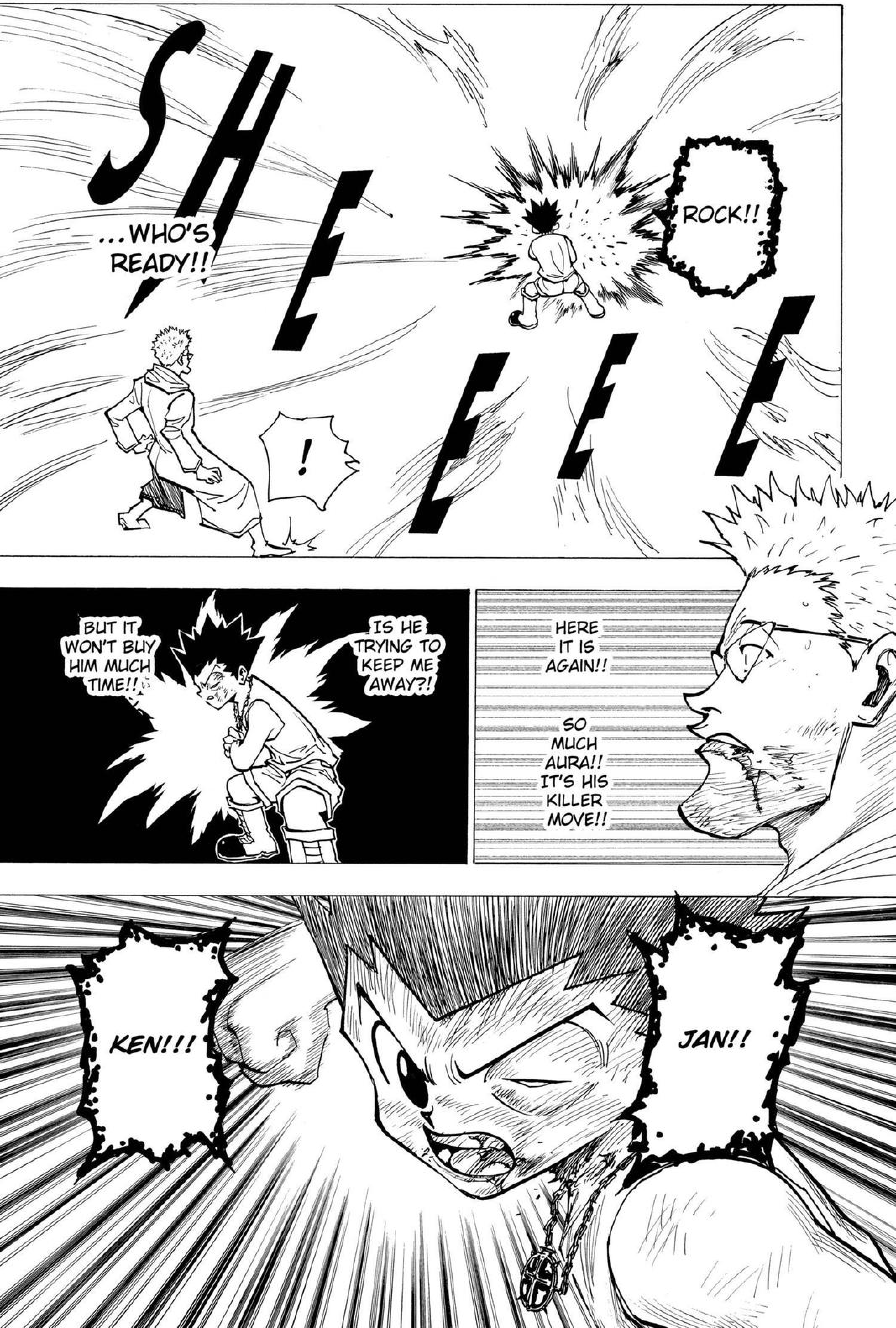

FOOM!!
KRASH
UNH!
!!
THIS SMELL...

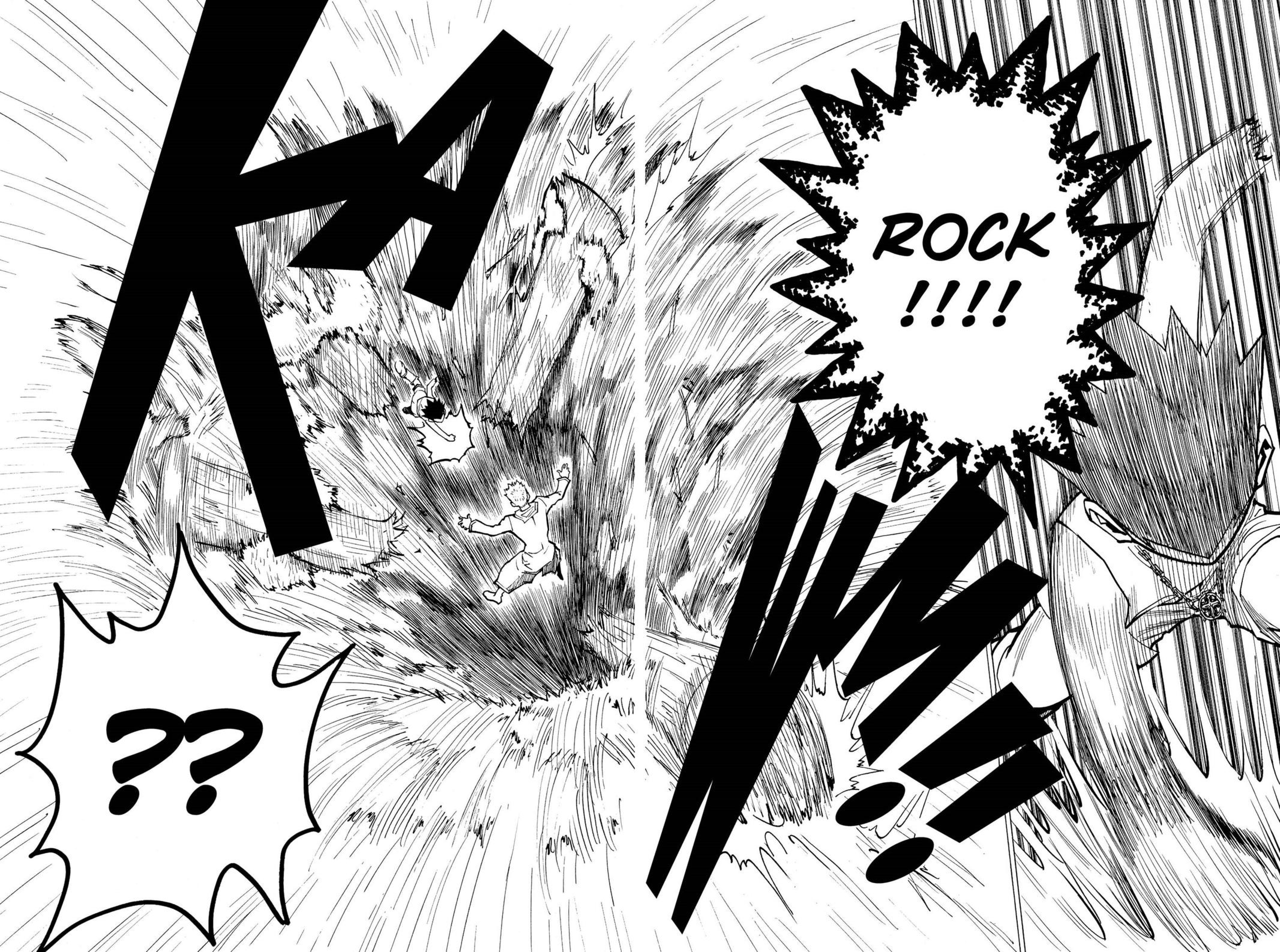

GASOLINE!!
OWW!!
NOW…
…YOU CAN'T USE LITTLE FLOWER.
I SWEAR …
I'LL KICK YOUR ASS!!

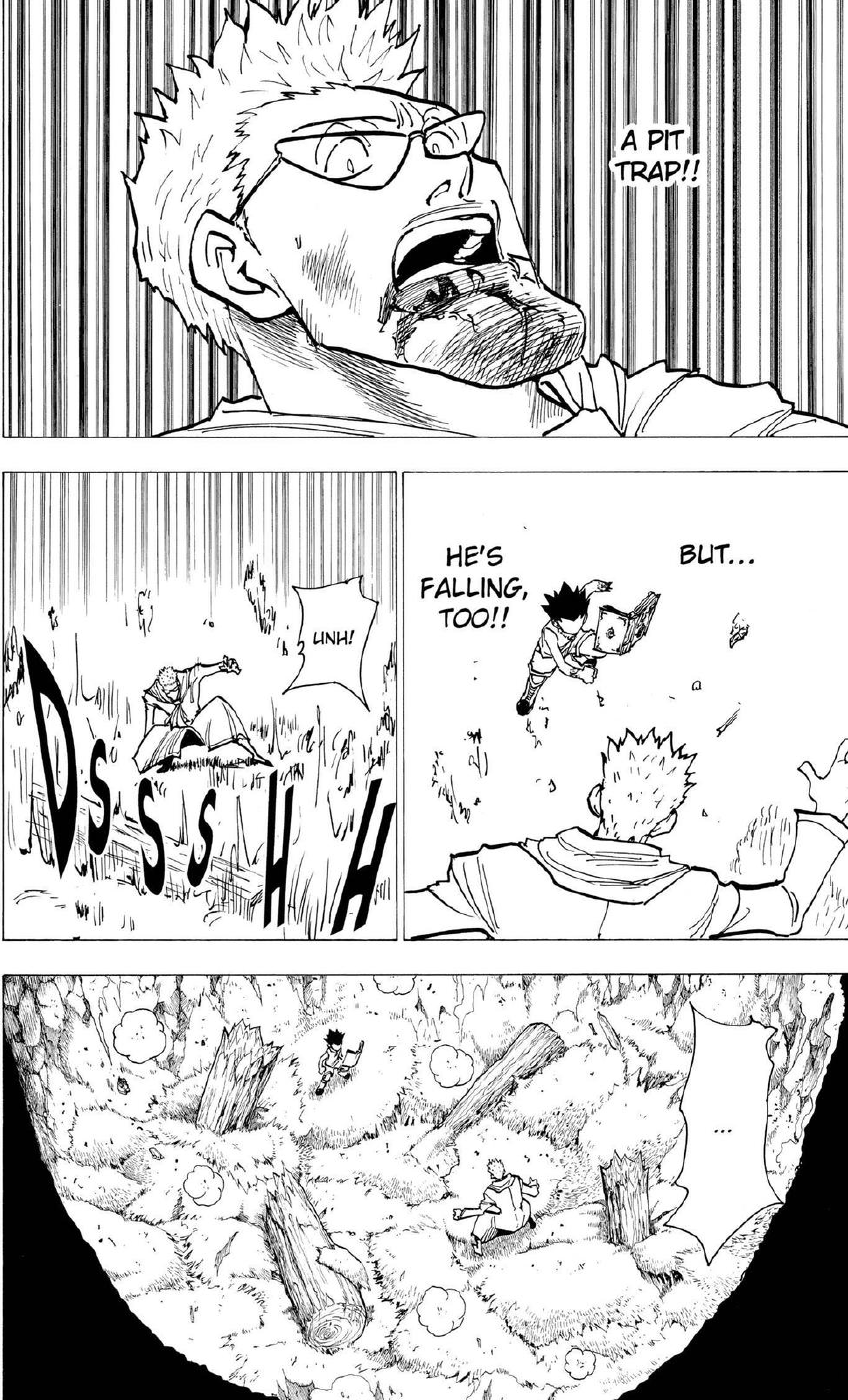
Chapter 181: Three-Way Struggle: Part 12

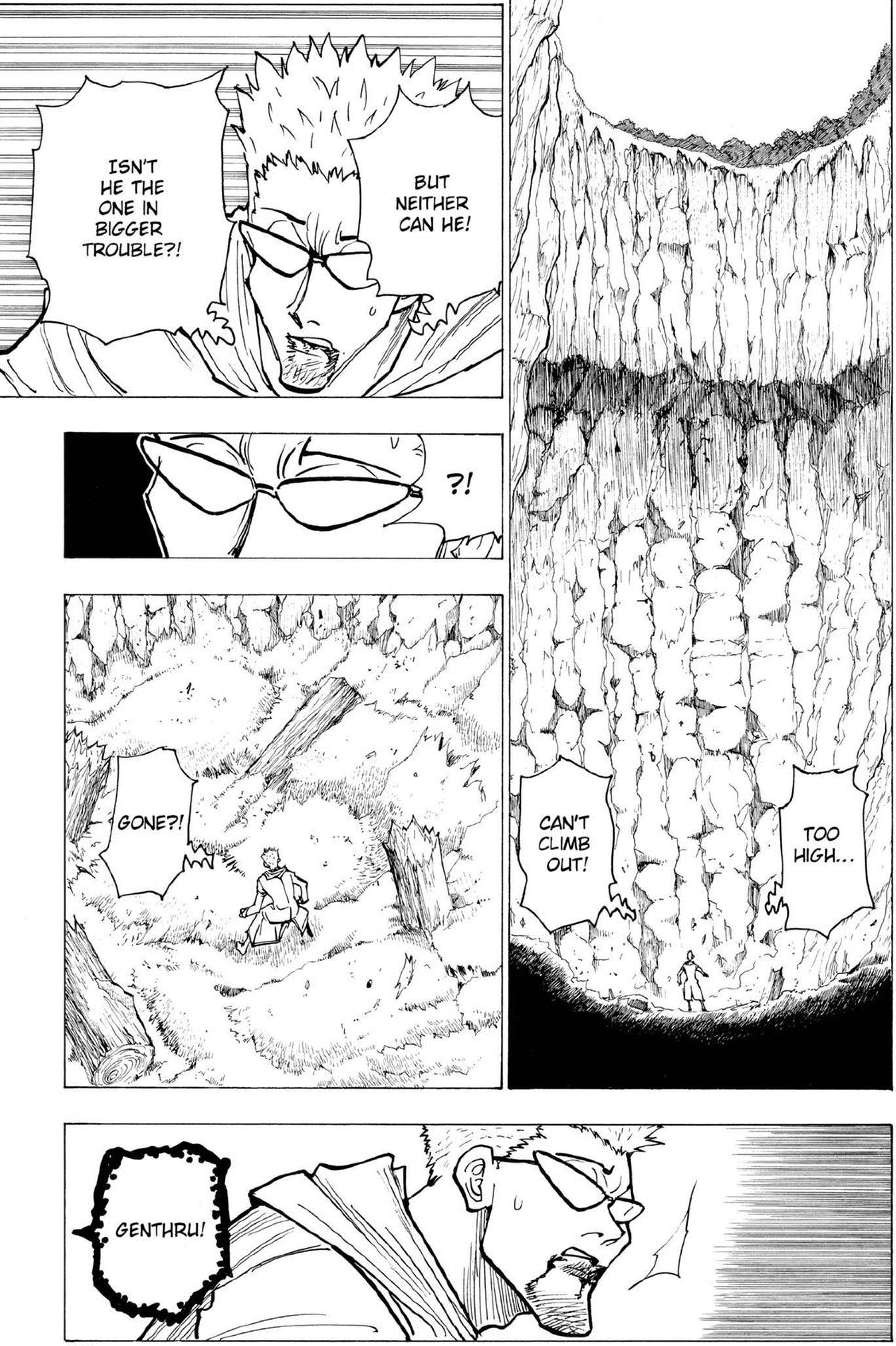

GASOLINE… HEH HEH, GOOD ONE.
BOOK!
FFT
YOU'RE RIGHT; I CAN'T USE LITTLE FLOWER.
BUT I HAVE ANOTHER ABILITY!
I CAN PLACE A BOMB ON YOUR BODY…
…BY SAYING "THE BOMBER" WHILE TOUCHING YOU!
TO REMOVE THE BOMB, YOU MUST TOUCH *ME* AND SAY, "I CAUGHT THE BOMBER."

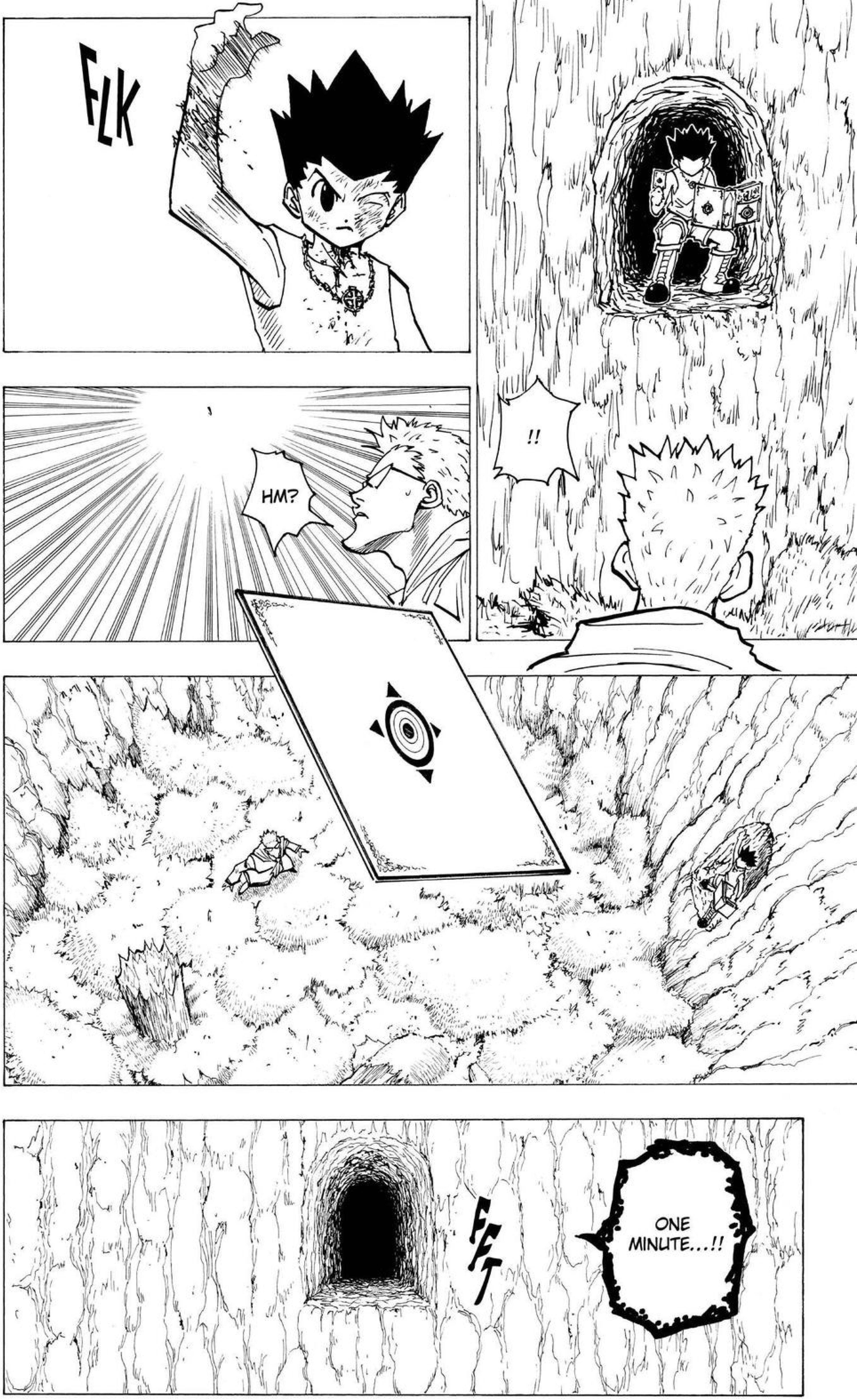

THE BOMB IS SET WITH A TIMER, AND WILL BLOW UP WHEN IT RUNS OUT.
SHF
SHF
IT'S TEN TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN LITTLE FLOWER!! YOUR NEN CAN'T DEFEND YOU.
TO ACTIVATE THIS ABILITY...
...I MUST EXPLAIN THE RULES TO MY TARGET.
THERE, I'M READY.
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TOUCH YOU AND SAY THE WORD, AND THE BOMB WILL AUTOMATICALLY START COUNTING DOWN!!
TRY AND RUN.
IF YOU HAVE THE ENERGY.
SHOW ME...
I'M THE ONE...

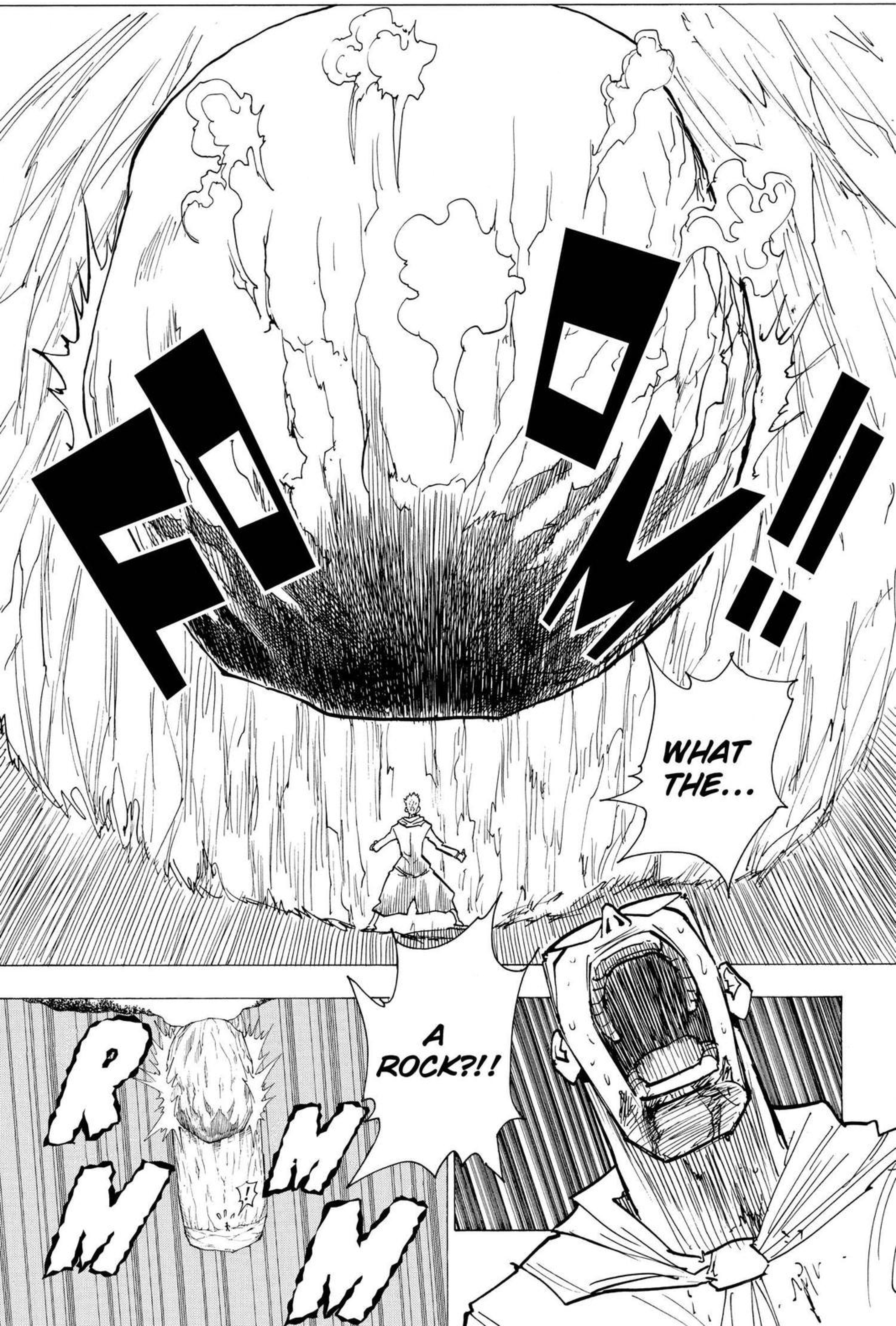

ROCK!!
SHEEEEE
...WHO'S READY!!
!
HERE IT IS AGAIN!!
SO MUCH AURA!! IT'S HIS KILLER MOVE!!
IS HE TRYING TO KEEP ME AWAY?!
BUT IT WON'T BUY HIM MUCH TIME!!
JAN!!
KEN!!!

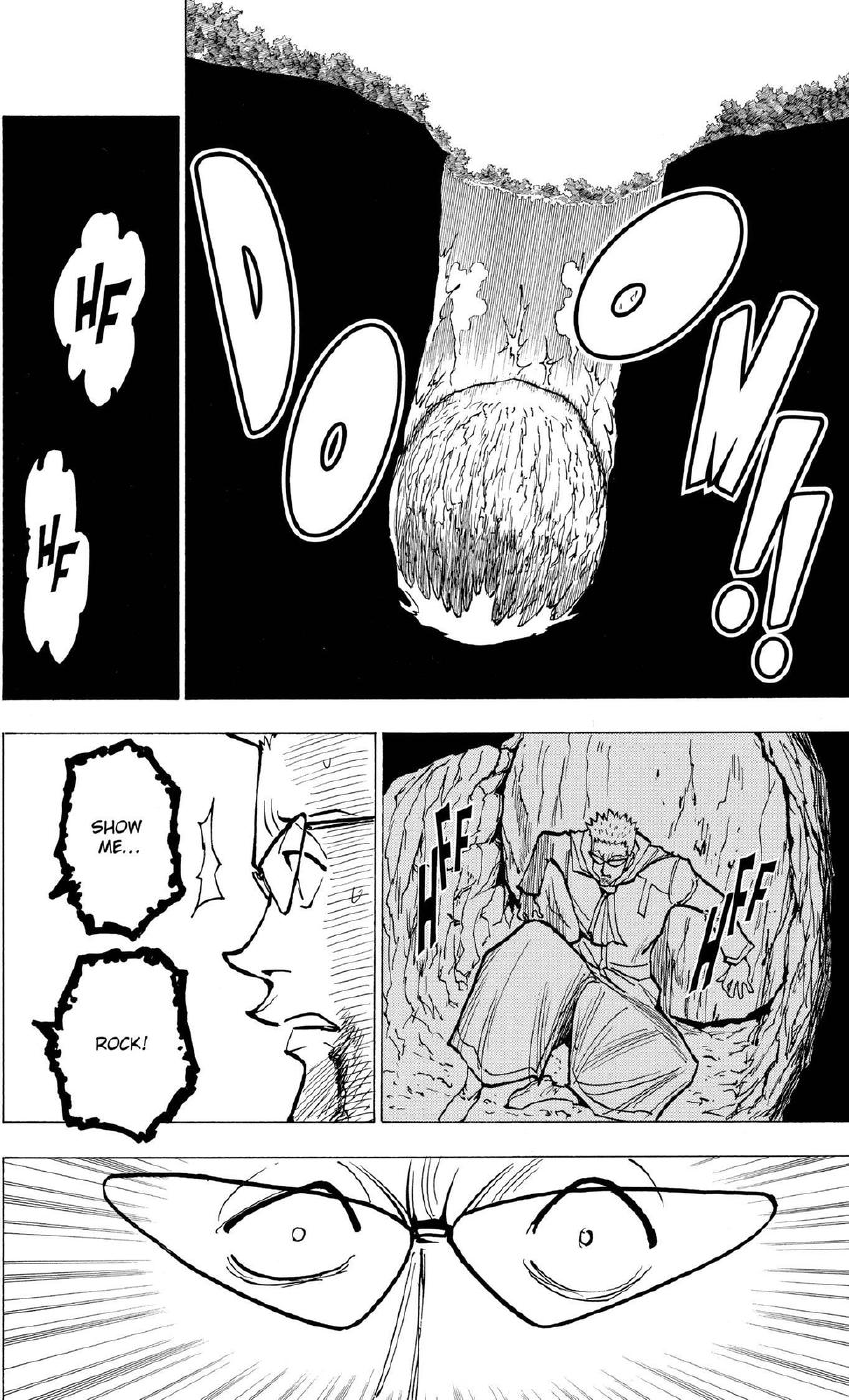

ROCK !!!!
WM!!
KA
??

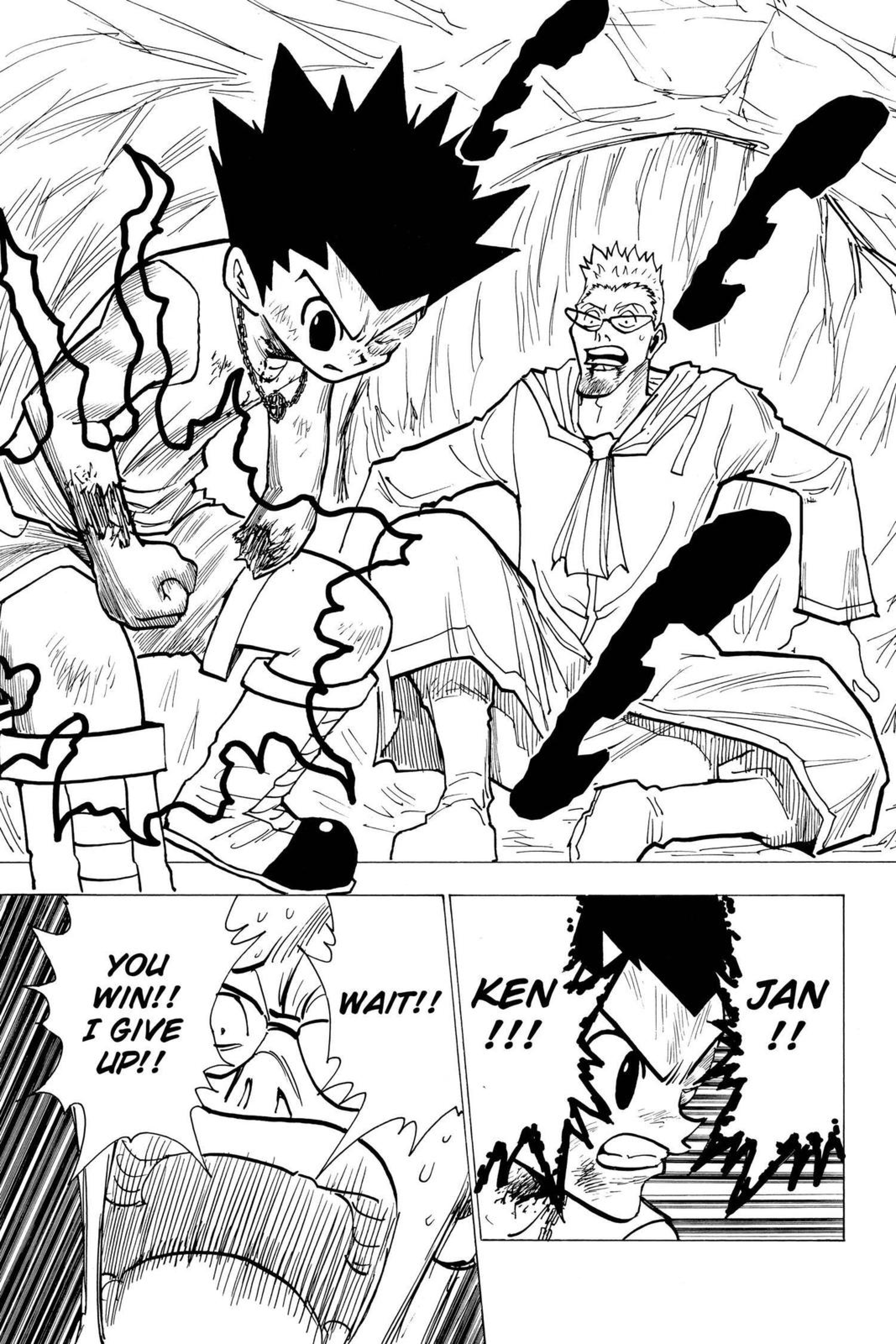

A PIT TRAP!!
BUT…
HE'S FALLING, TOO!!
UNH!
DSSSHH
…

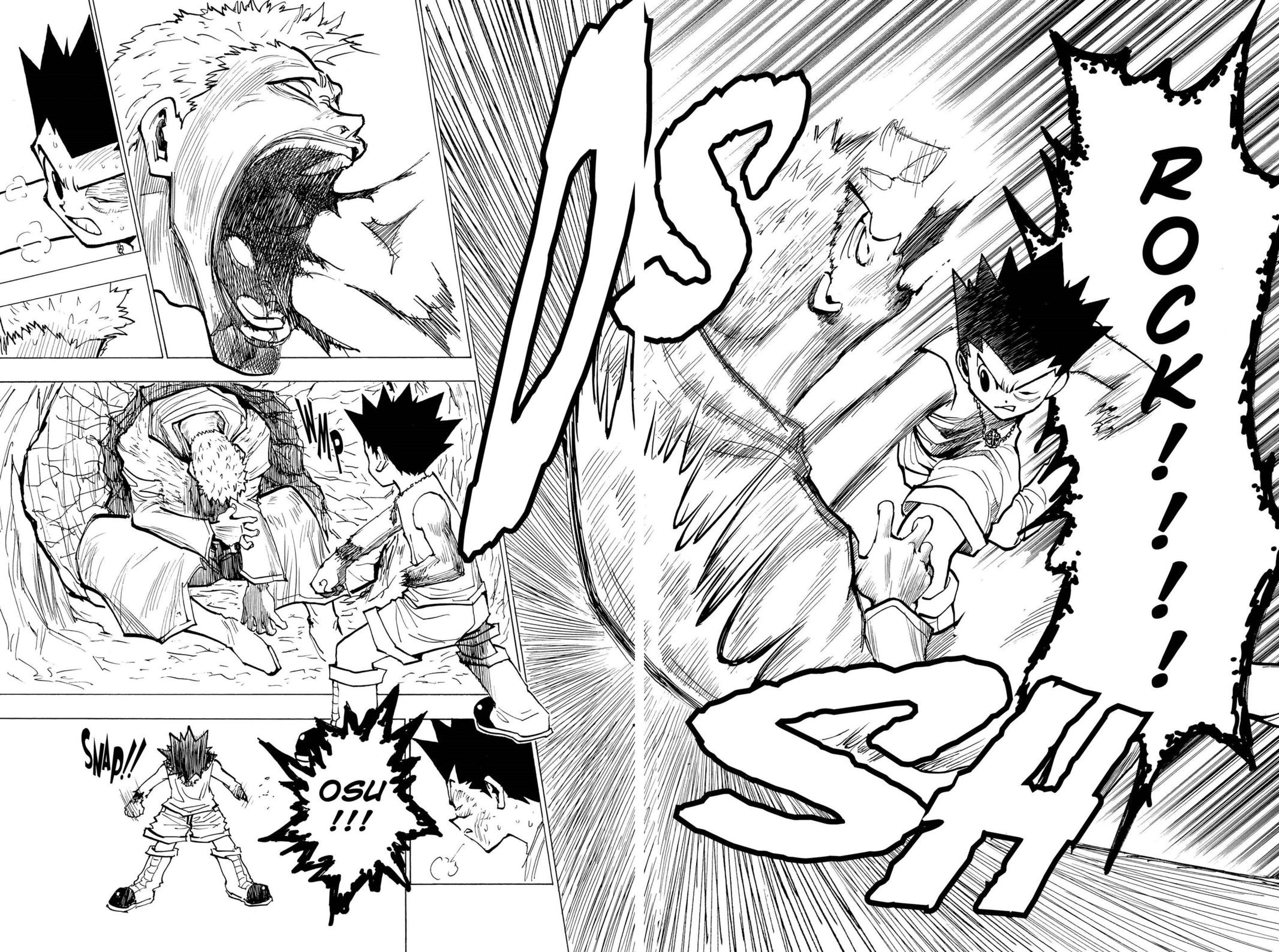

TOO HIGH...
CAN'T CLIMB OUT!
BUT NEITHER CAN HE!
ISN'T HE THE ONE IN BIGGER TROUBLE?!
?!
GONE?!
GENTHRU!

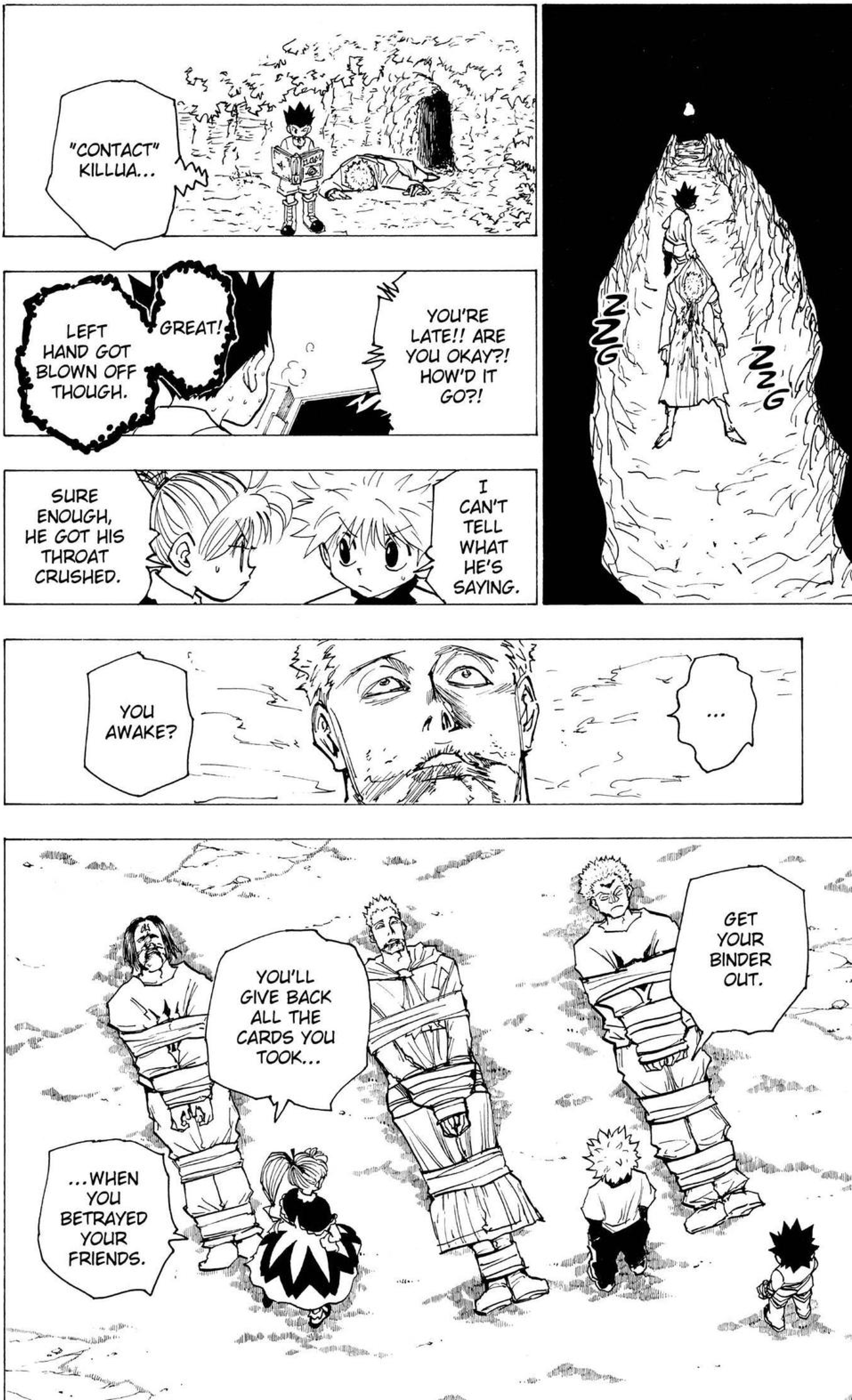

!!
FLK
HM?
ONE MINUTE...!!
FFT

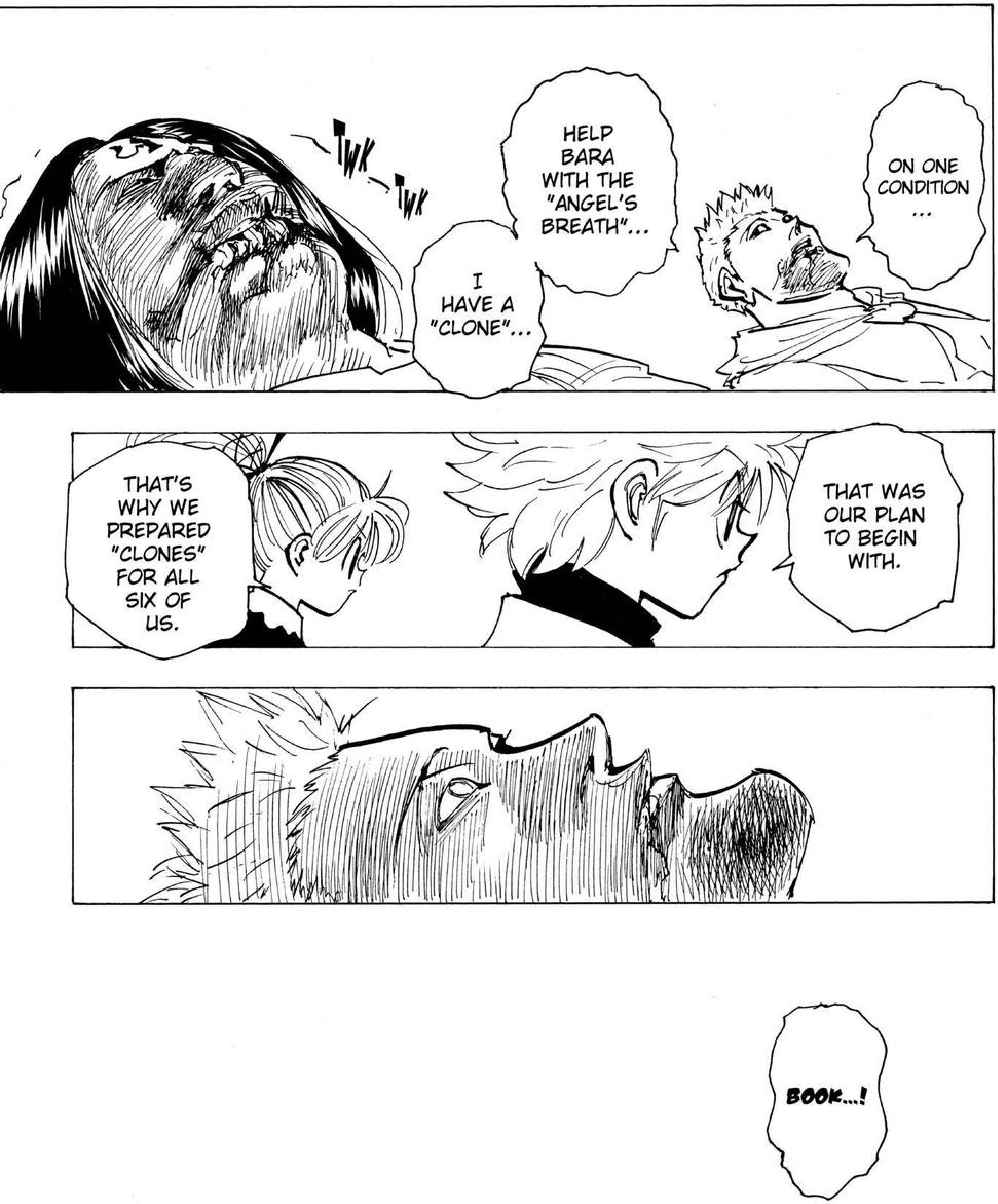

FOOM!!
WHAT THE...
A ROCK?!!
RMMMM
!


DOOOM!!
HF
HF
HFF
HFF
SHOW ME...
ROCK!


JAN !!
KEN !!!
WAIT!!
YOU WIN!! I GIVE UP!!

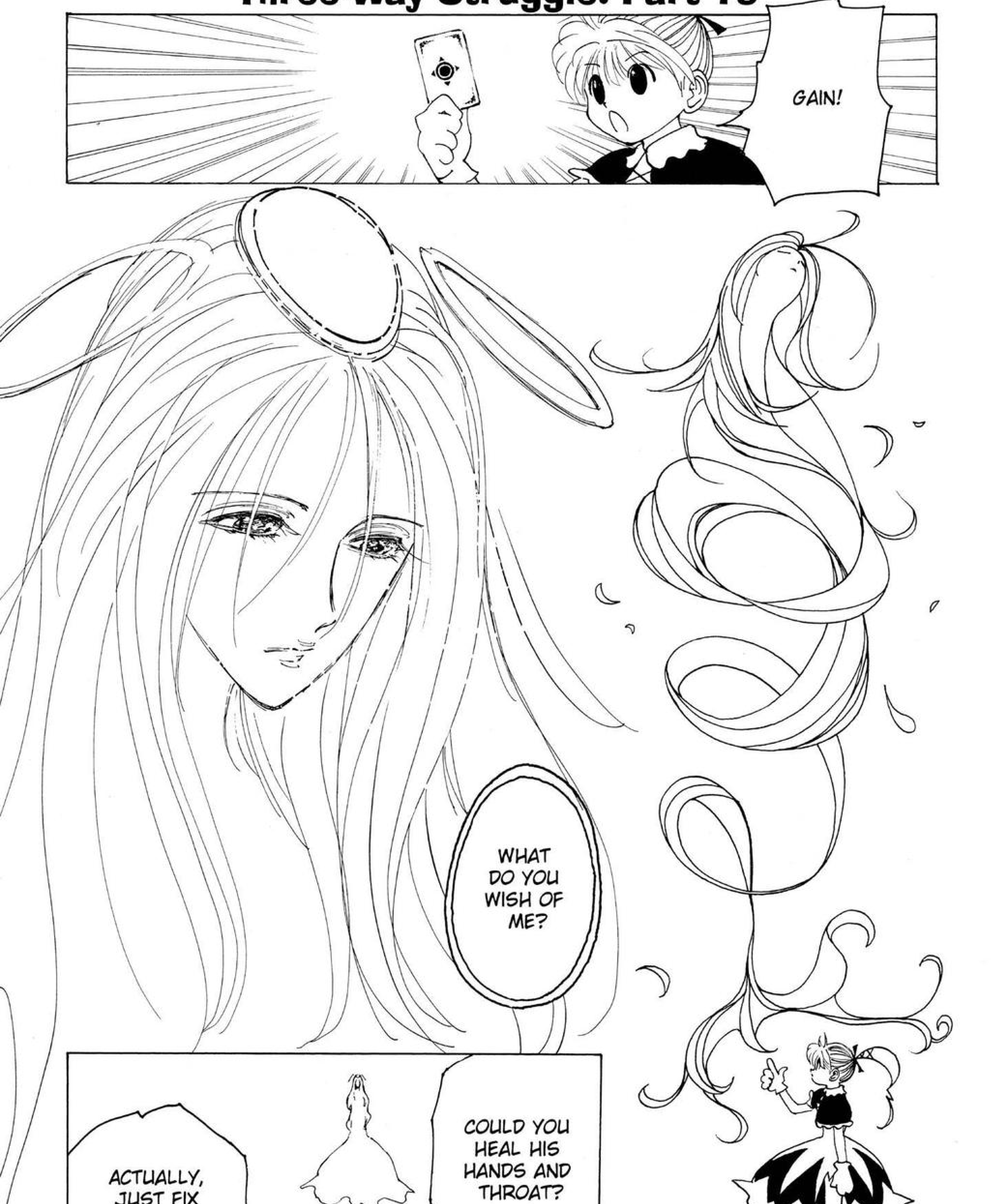

ROCK!!!!!!
AS
SH
WMP
OSU !!!
SNAP!!

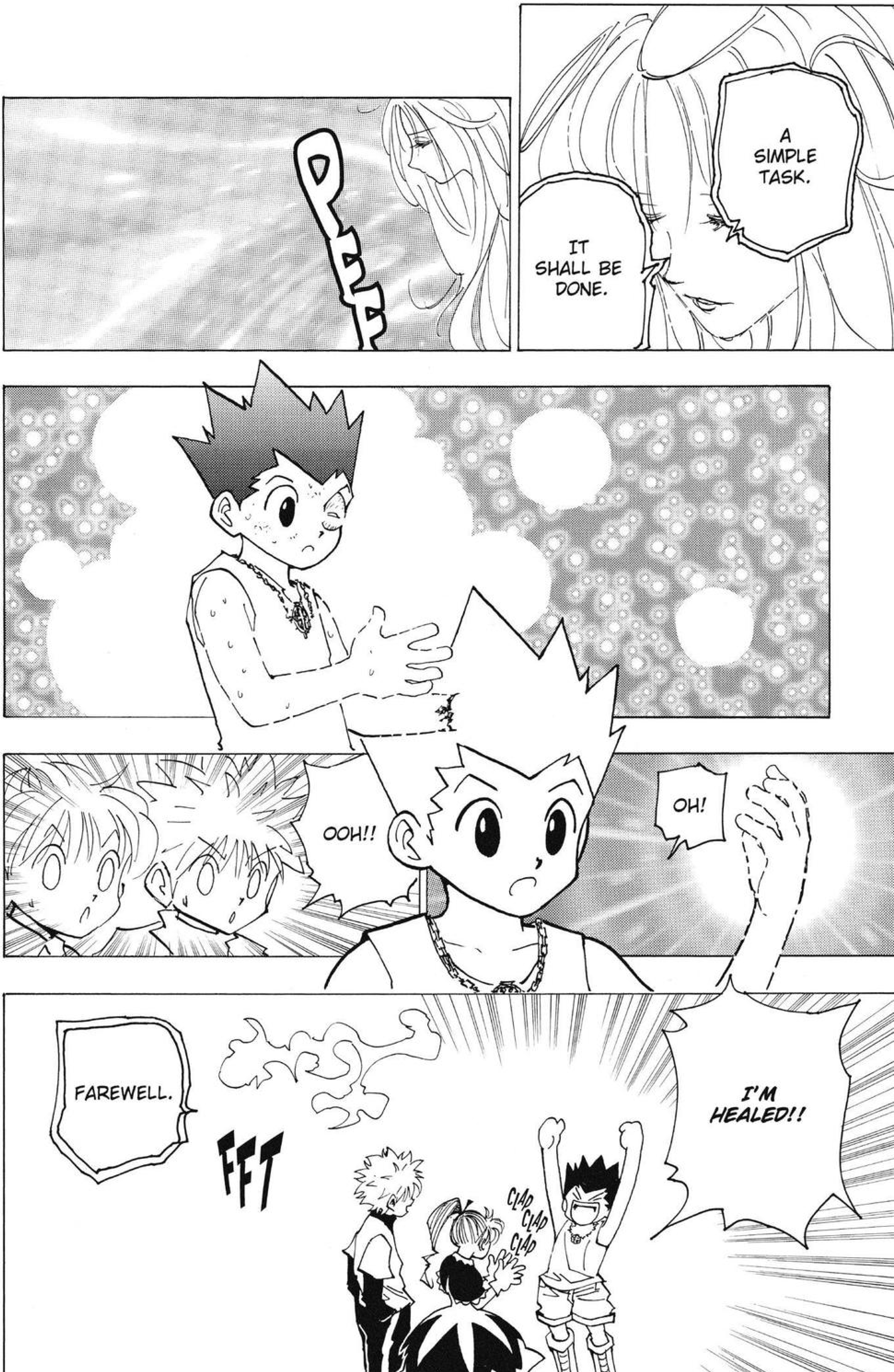

"CONTACT" KILLUA...
YOU'RE LATE!! ARE YOU OKAY?! HOW'D IT GO?!
GREAT!
LEFT HAND GOT BLOWN OFF THOUGH.
SURE ENOUGH, HE GOT HIS THROAT CRUSHED.
I CAN'T TELL WHAT HE'S SAYING.
ZZG
ZZG
YOU AWAKE?
...
GET YOUR BINDER OUT.
YOU'LL GIVE BACK ALL THE CARDS YOU TOOK...
...WHEN YOU BETRAYED YOUR FRIENDS.

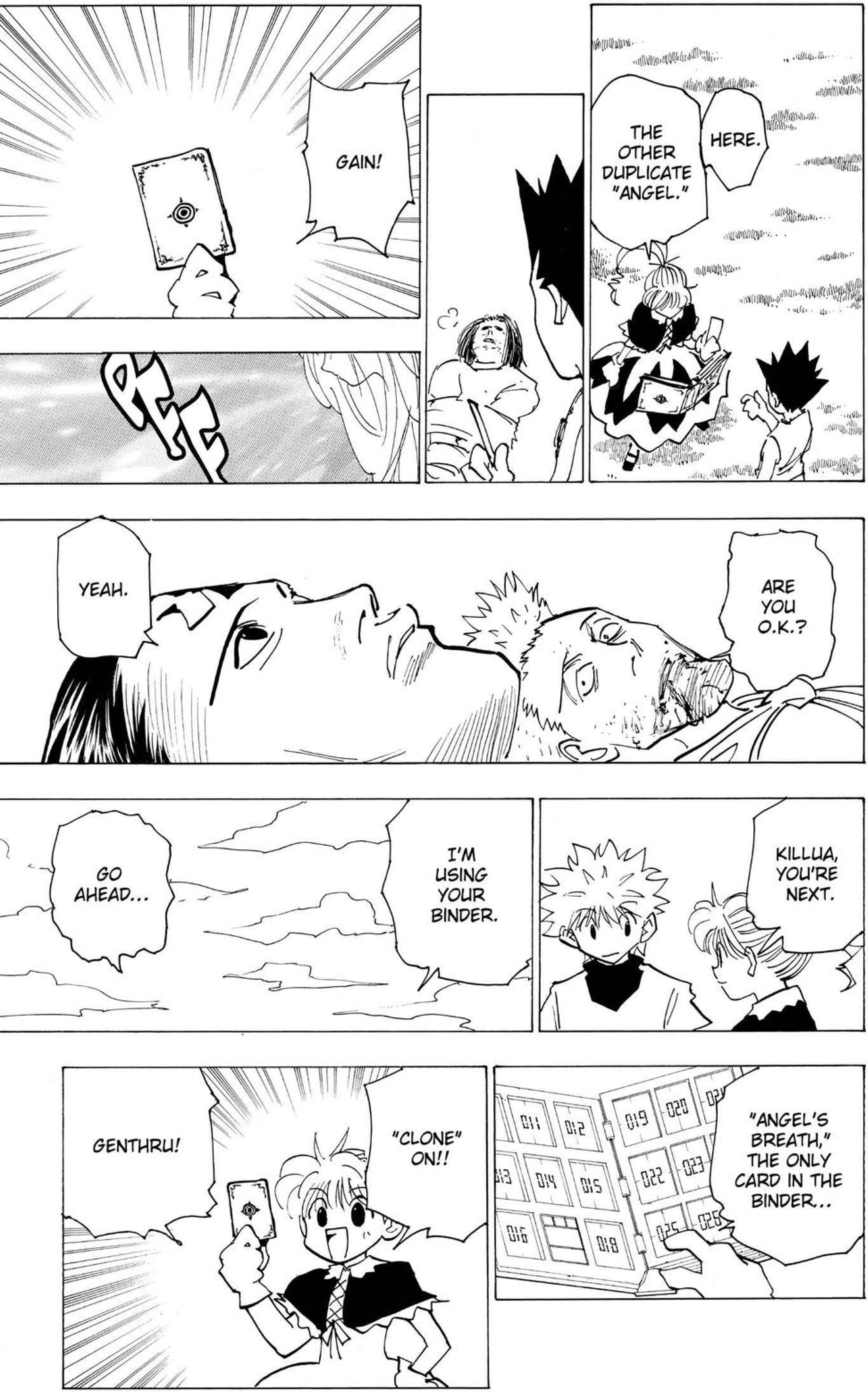

ON ONE CONDITION …
HELP BARA WITH THE "ANGEL'S BREATH"…
I HAVE A "CLONE"…
TWK TWK
THAT WAS OUR PLAN TO BEGIN WITH.
THAT'S WHY WE PREPARED "CLONES" FOR ALL SIX OF US.
BOOK…!

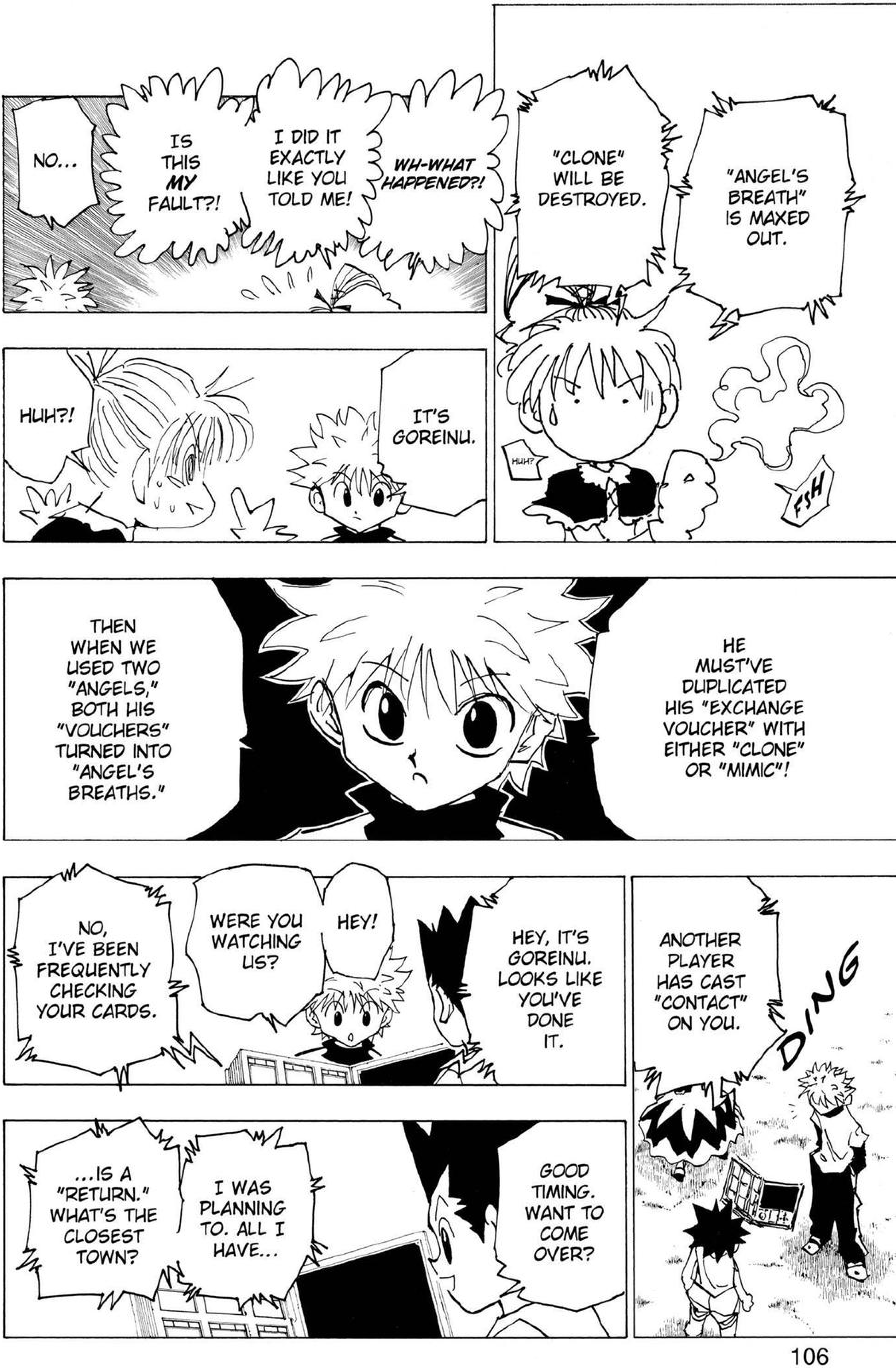
KRI

Chapter 182: Three-Way Struggle: Part 13

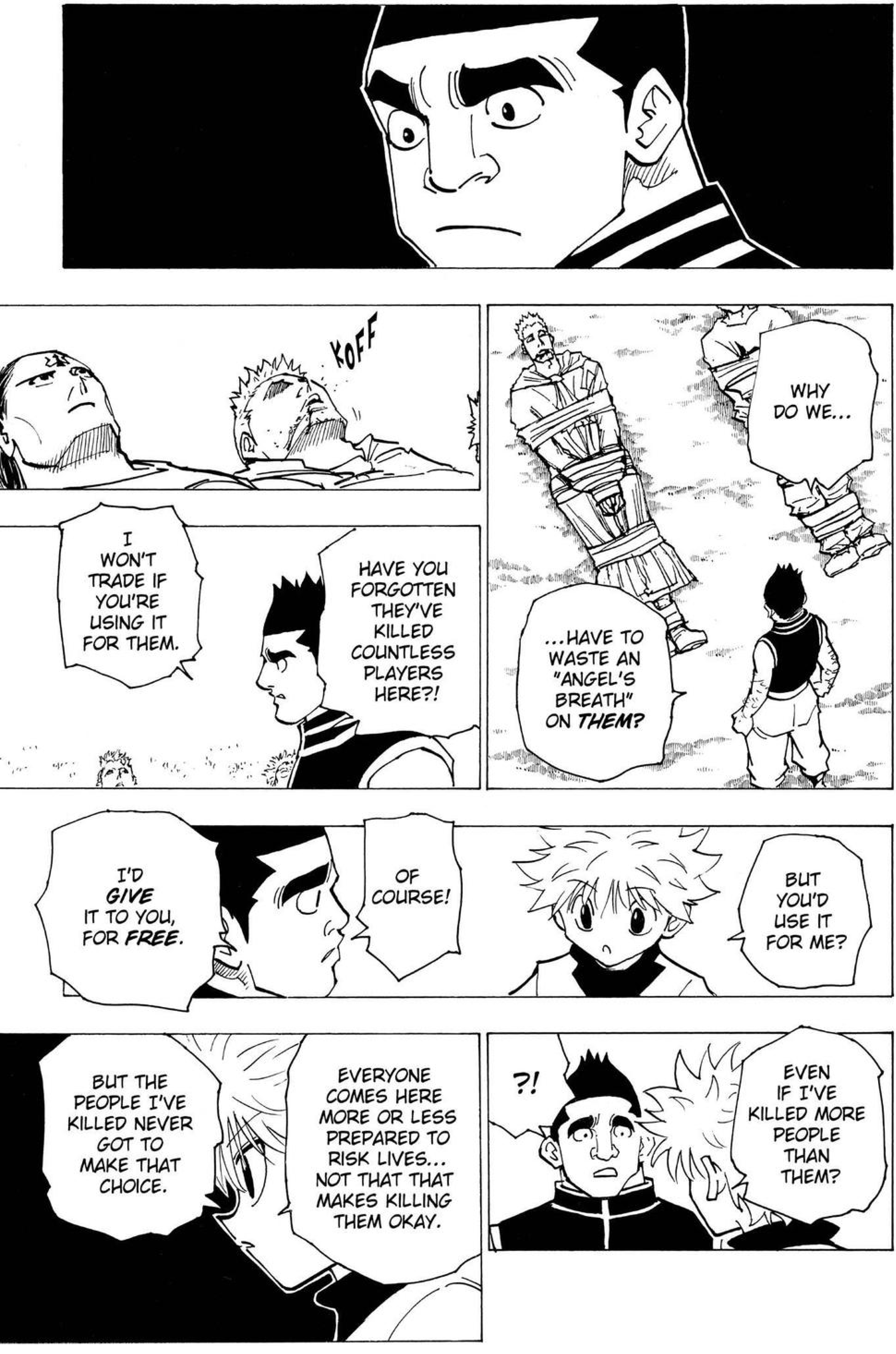

GAIN!
WHAT DO YOU WISH OF ME?
COULD YOU HEAL HIS HANDS AND THROAT?
ACTUALLY, JUST FIX EVERYTHING THAT'S WRONG WITH HIM.

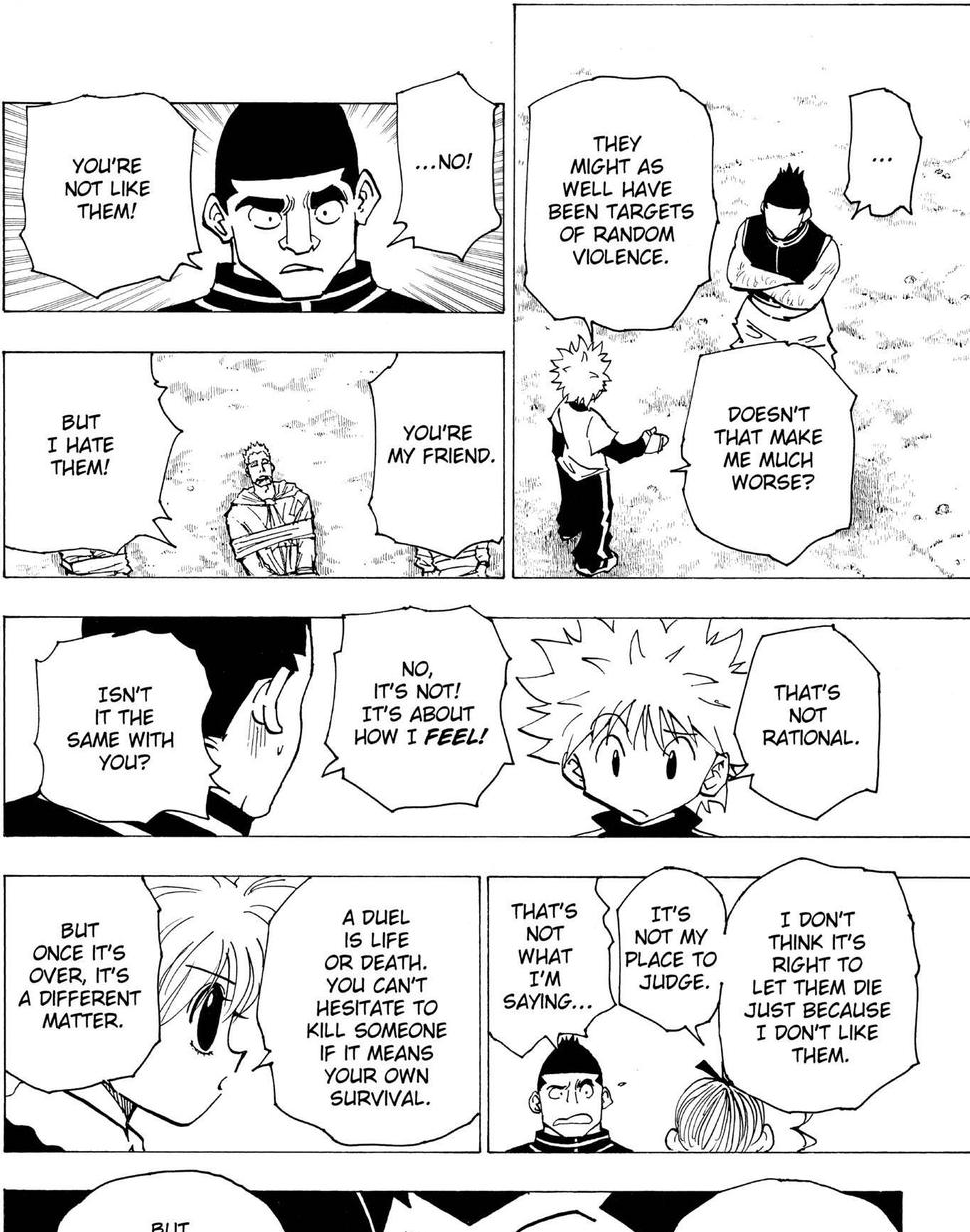

A SIMPLE TASK.
IT SHALL BE DONE.
OH!
OOH!!
I'M HEALED!!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
FFT
FAREWELL.

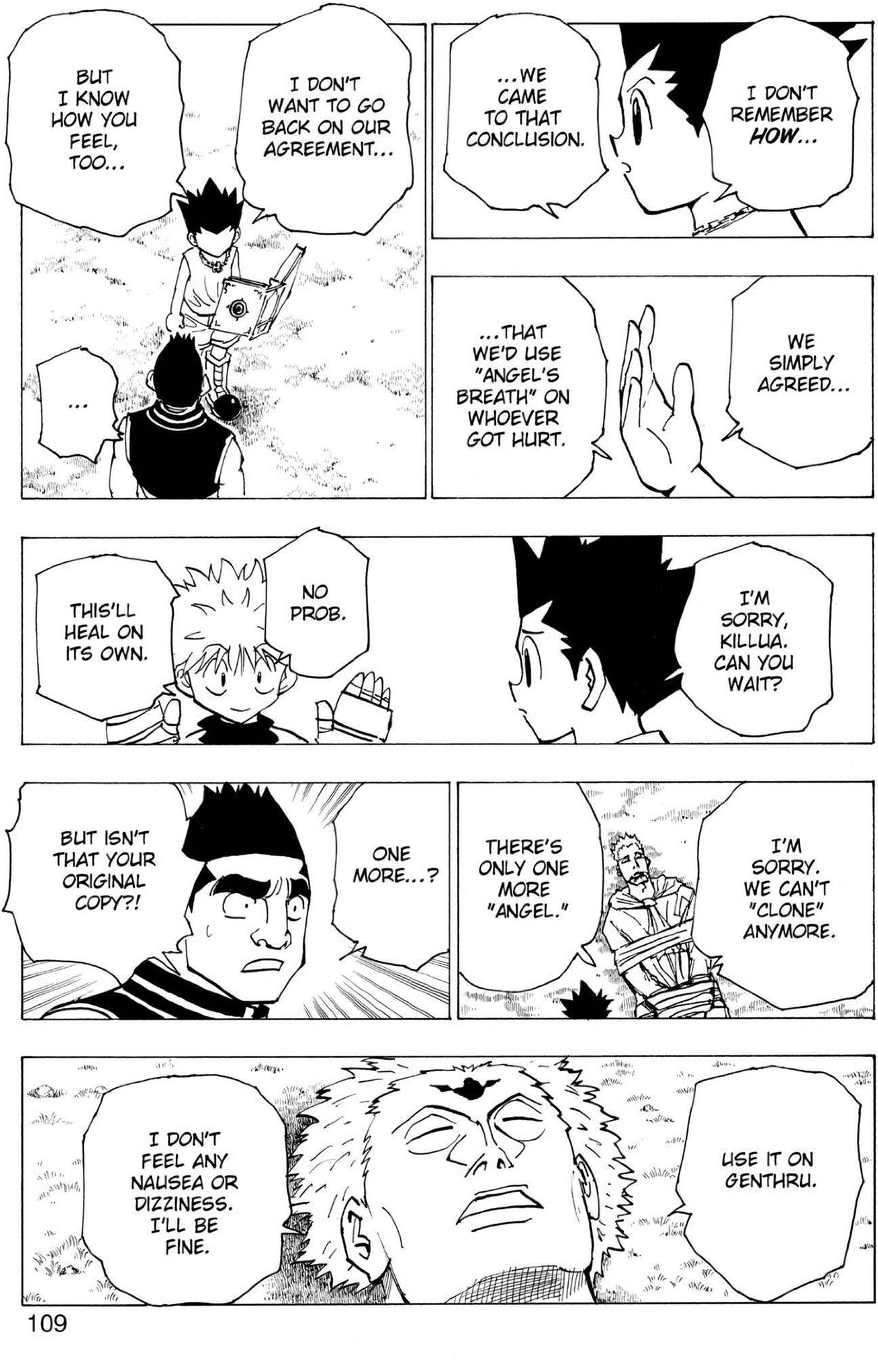

HERE.
THE OTHER DUPLICATE "ANGEL."
GAIN!
ARE YOU O.K.?
YEAH.
KILLUA, YOU'RE NEXT.
I'M USING YOUR BINDER.
GO AHEAD...
"ANGEL'S BREATH," THE ONLY CARD IN THE BINDER...
"CLONE" ON!!
GENTHRU!

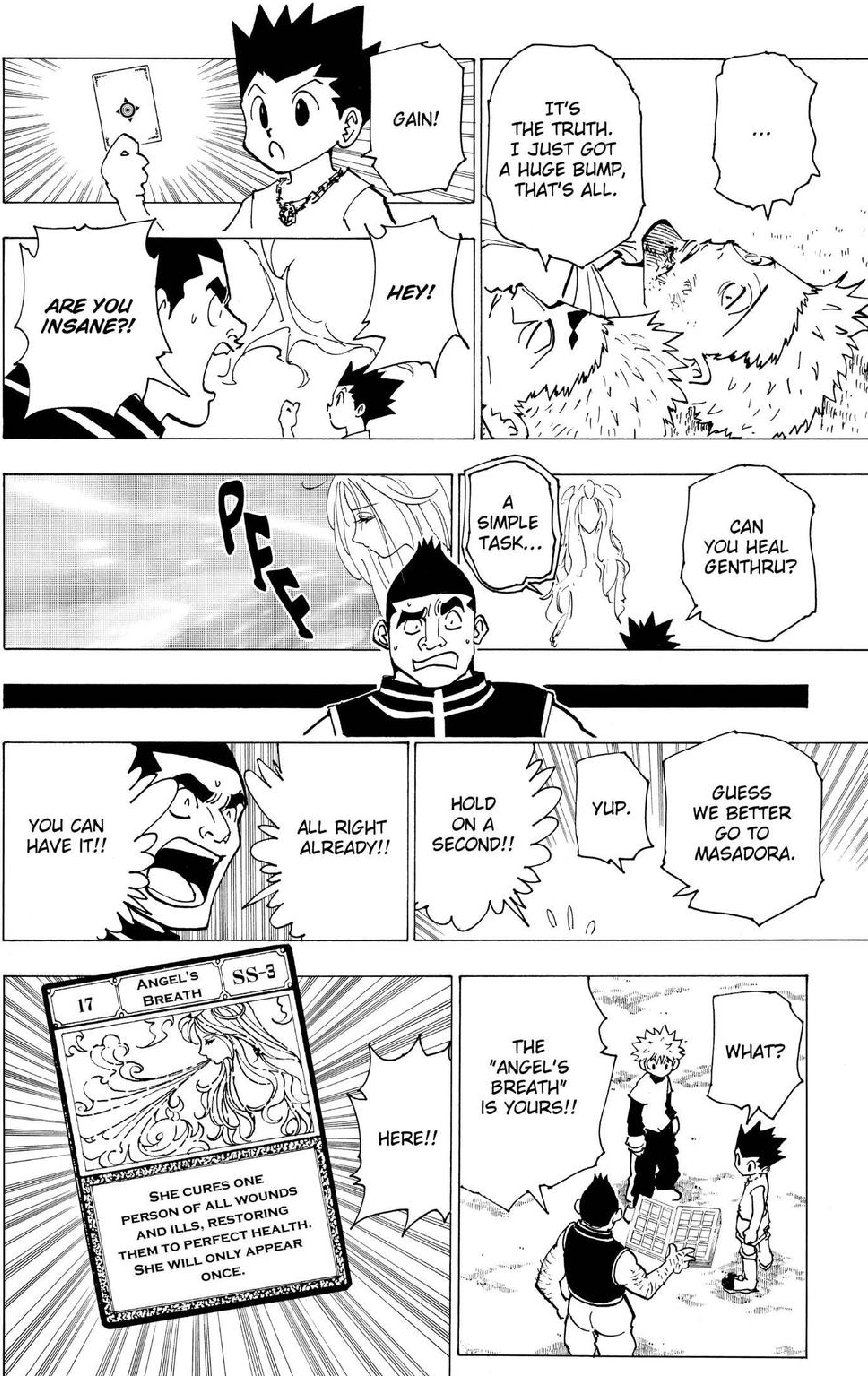

"ANGEL'S BREATH" IS MAXED OUT.
"CLONE" WILL BE DESTROYED.
HUH?
FSH
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?!
I DID IT EXACTLY LIKE YOU TOLD ME!
IS THIS *MY* FAULT?!
NO...
IT'S GOREINU.
HUH?!
HE MUST'VE DUPLICATED HIS "EXCHANGE VOUCHER" WITH EITHER "CLONE" OR "MIMIC"!
THEN WHEN WE USED TWO "ANGELS," BOTH HIS "VOUCHERS" TURNED INTO "ANGEL'S BREATHS."
DING
ANOTHER PLAYER HAS CAST "CONTACT" ON YOU.
HEY, IT'S GOREINU. LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE DONE IT.
HEY!
WERE YOU WATCHING US?
NO, I'VE BEEN FREQUENTLY CHECKING YOUR CARDS.
GOOD TIMING. WANT TO COME OVER?
I WAS PLANNING TO. ALL I HAVE...
...IS A "RETURN." WHAT'S THE CLOSEST TOWN?

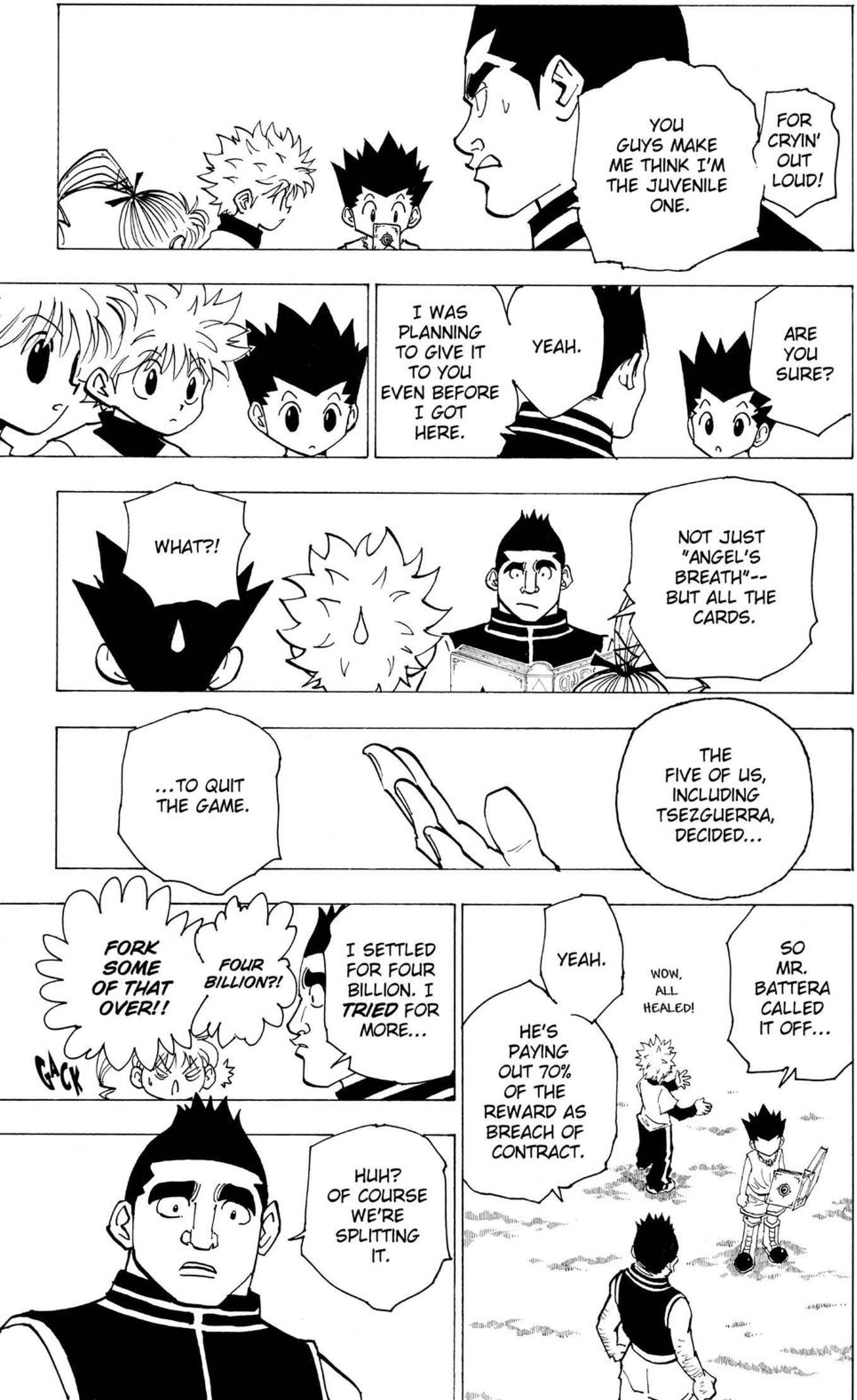
READ THIS WAY

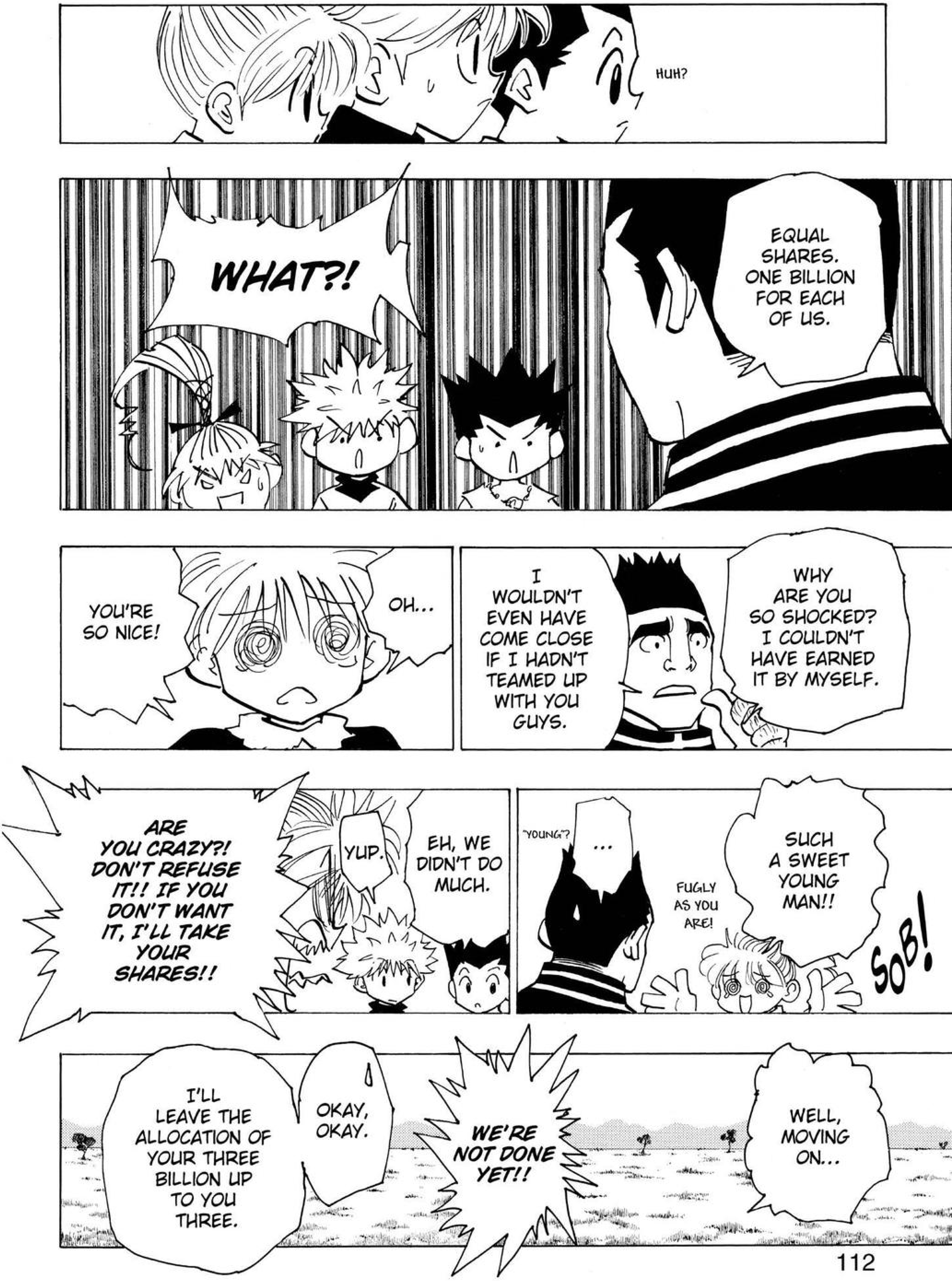

WHY DO WE...
...HAVE TO WASTE AN "ANGEL'S BREATH" ON *THEM?*
KOFF
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THEY'VE KILLED COUNTLESS PLAYERS HERE?!
I WON'T TRADE IF YOU'RE USING IT FOR THEM.
BUT YOU'D USE IT FOR ME?
OF COURSE!
I'D ***GIVE*** IT TO YOU, FOR ***FREE***.
EVEN IF I'VE KILLED MORE PEOPLE THAN THEM?
?!
EVERYONE COMES HERE MORE OR LESS PREPARED TO RISK LIVES... NOT THAT THAT MAKES KILLING THEM OKAY.
BUT THE PEOPLE I'VE KILLED NEVER GOT TO MAKE THAT CHOICE.

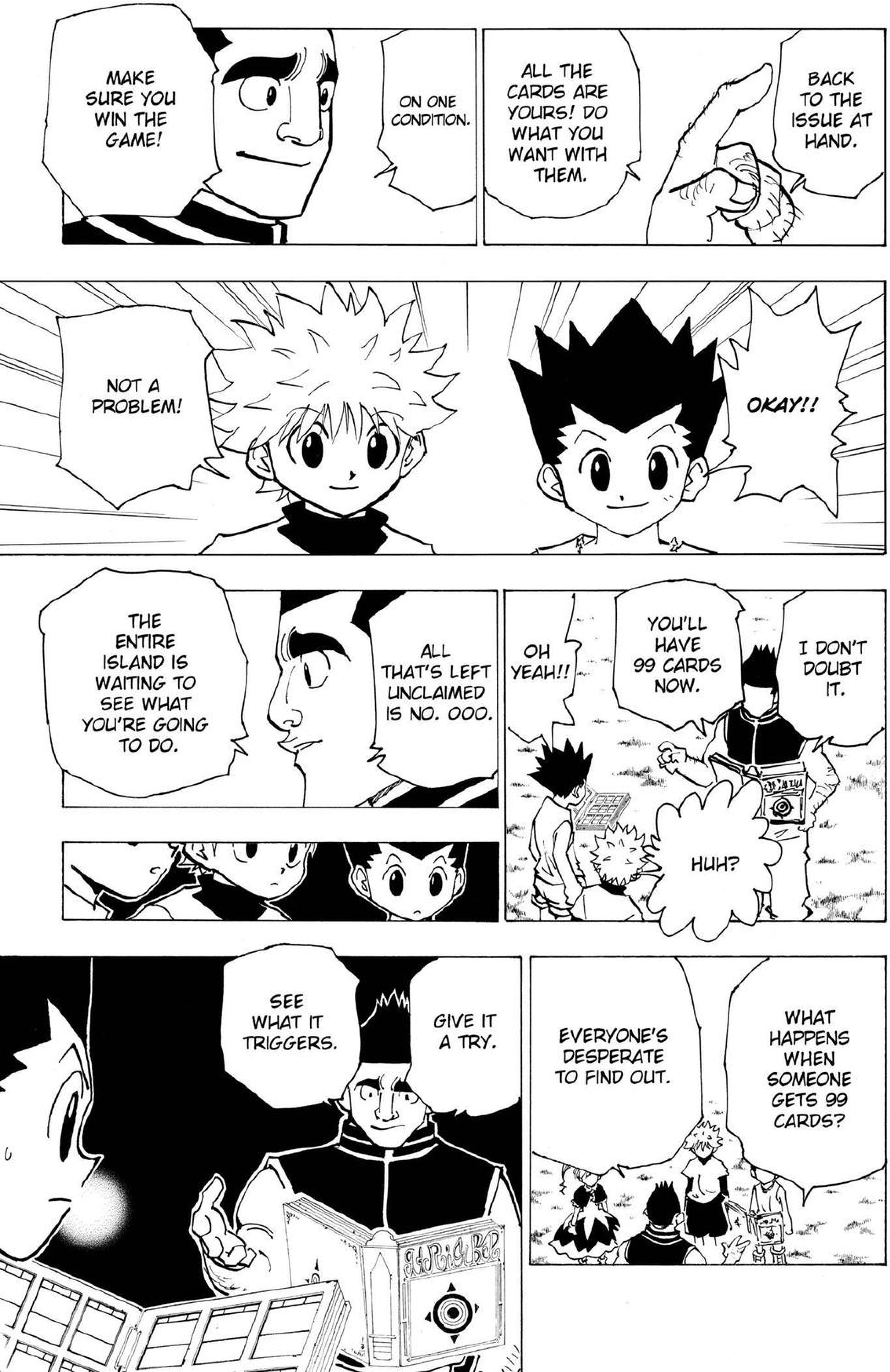

...
THEY MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN TARGETS OF RANDOM VIOLENCE.
DOESN'T THAT MAKE ME MUCH WORSE?
...NO!
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THEM!
YOU'RE MY FRIEND.
BUT I HATE THEM!
THAT'S NOT RATIONAL.
NO, IT'S NOT! IT'S ABOUT HOW I ***FEEL!***
ISN'T IT THE SAME WITH YOU?
I DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT TO LET THEM DIE JUST BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE THEM.
IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO JUDGE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING...
A DUEL IS LIFE OR DEATH. YOU CAN'T HESITATE TO KILL SOMEONE IF IT MEANS YOUR OWN SURVIVAL.
BUT ONCE IT'S OVER, IT'S A DIFFERENT MATTER.
I WOULDN'T FORGIVE THEM FOR KILLING SO MANY PLAYERS EITHER...
BUT BEFORE THE BATTLE, THE THREE OF US DECIDED TO PREPARE SIX "CLONES," JUST IN CASE...

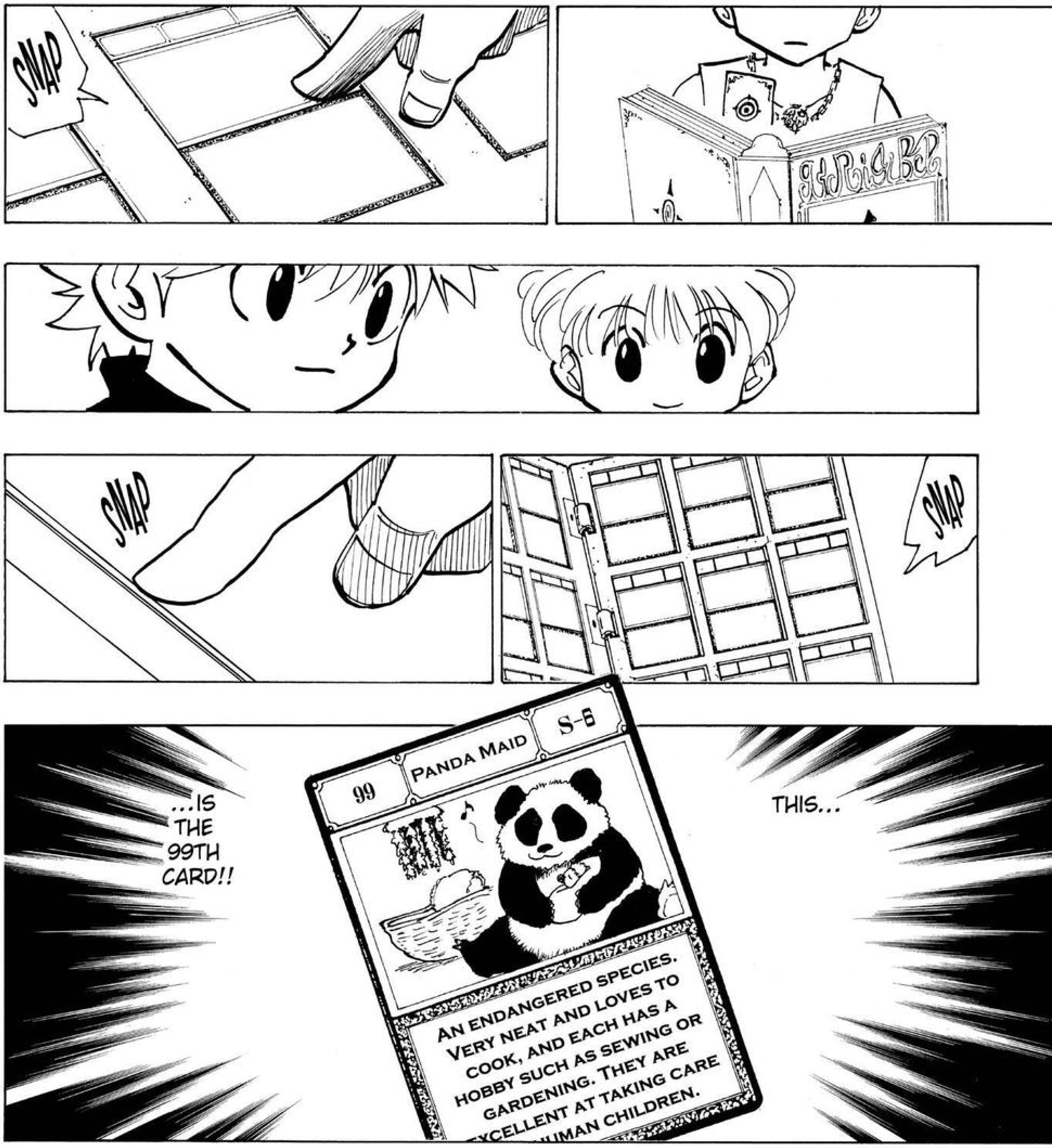

I DON'T REMEMBER *HOW*...
...WE CAME TO THAT CONCLUSION.
WE SIMPLY AGREED...
...THAT WE'D USE "ANGEL'S BREATH" ON WHOEVER GOT HURT.
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK ON OUR AGREEMENT...
BUT I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, TOO...
...
I'M SORRY, KILLUA. CAN YOU WAIT?
NO PROB.
THIS'LL HEAL ON ITS OWN.
I'M SORRY. WE CAN'T "CLONE" ANYMORE.
THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE "ANGEL."
ONE MORE...?
BUT ISN'T THAT YOUR ORIGINAL COPY?!
USE IT ON GENTHRU.
I DON'T FEEL ANY NAUSEA OR DIZZINESS. I'LL BE FINE.

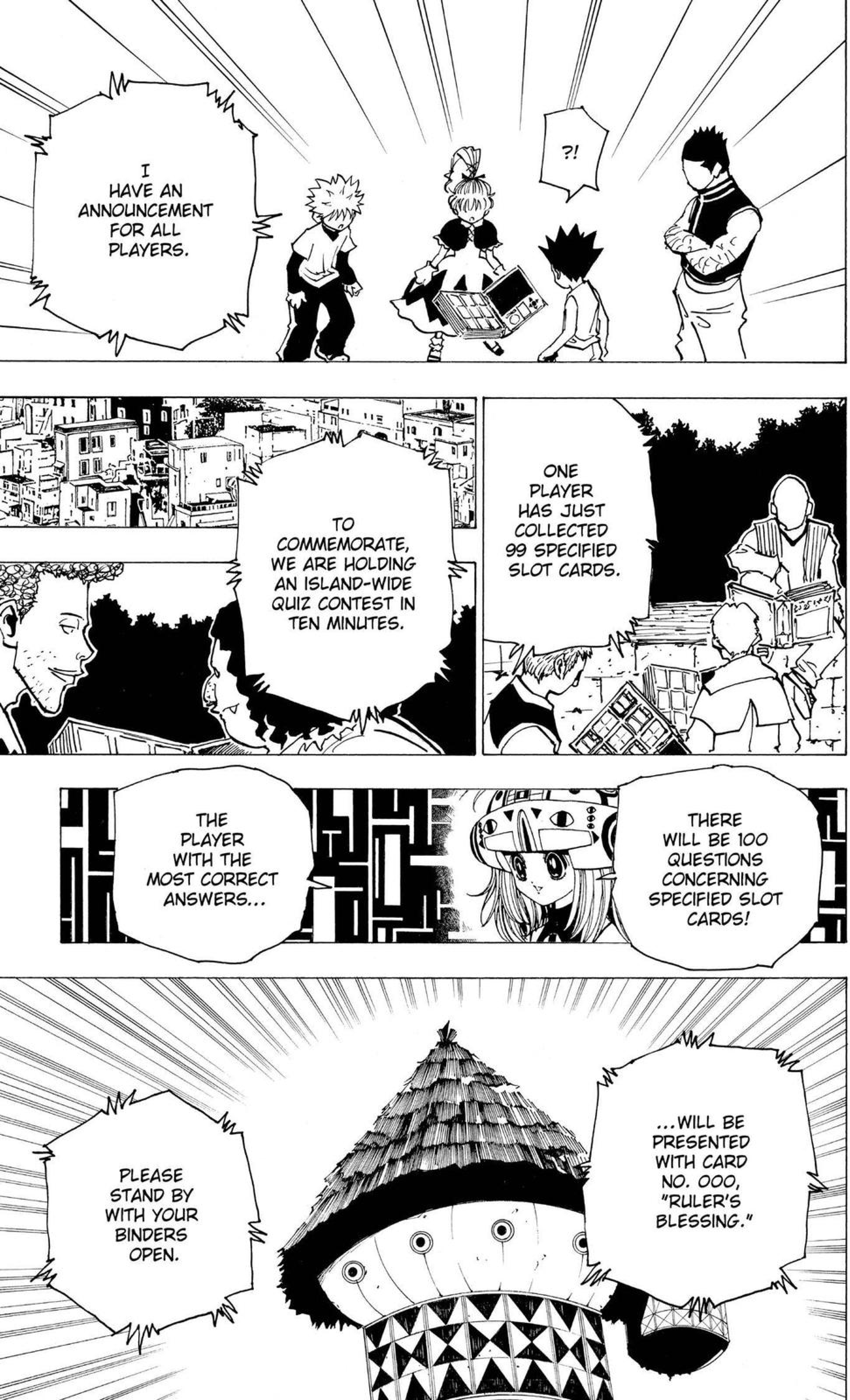

...
IT'S THE TRUTH. I JUST GOT A HUGE BUMP, THAT'S ALL.
GAIN!
HEY!
ARE YOU INSANE?!
CAN YOU HEAL GENTHRU?
A SIMPLE TASK...
PFFF
GUESS WE BETTER GO TO MASADORA.
YUP.
HOLD ON A SECOND!!
ALL RIGHT ALREADY!!
YOU CAN HAVE IT!!
WHAT?
THE "ANGEL'S BREATH" IS YOURS!!
HERE!!
17
ANGEL'S BREATH
SS-3
SHE CURES ONE PERSON OF ALL WOUNDS AND ILLS, RESTORING THEM TO PERFECT HEALTH. SHE WILL ONLY APPEAR ONCE.

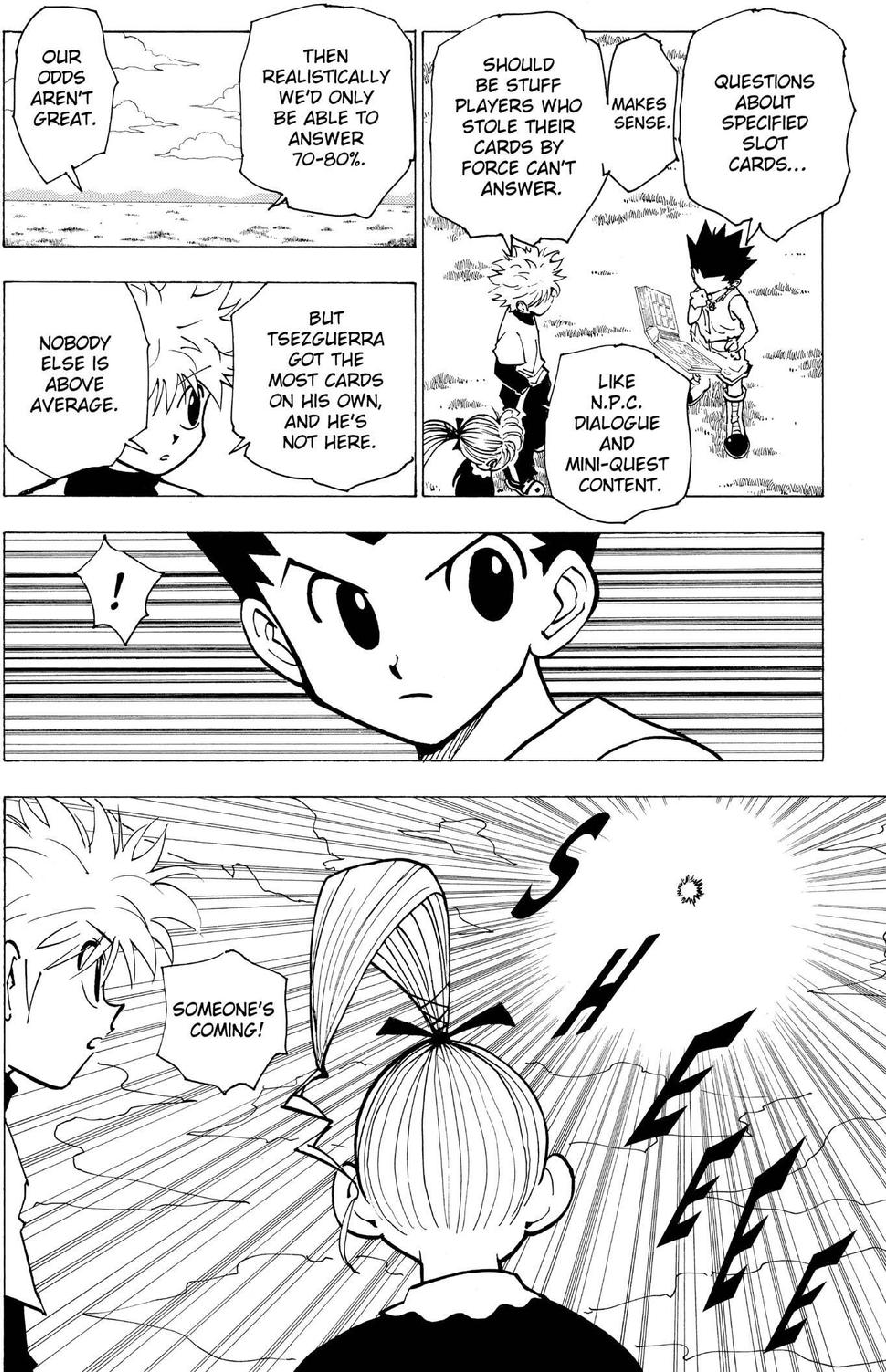

FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
YOU GUYS MAKE ME THINK I'M THE JUVENILE ONE.
ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH.
I WAS PLANNING TO GIVE IT TO YOU EVEN BEFORE I GOT HERE.
NOT JUST "ANGEL'S BREATH"-- BUT ALL THE CARDS.
WHAT?!
THE FIVE OF US, INCLUDING TSEZGUERRA, DECIDED...
...TO QUIT THE GAME.
SO MR. BATTERA CALLED IT OFF...
YEAH.
WOW, ALL HEALED!
HE'S PAYING OUT 70% OF THE REWARD AS BREACH OF CONTRACT.
I SETTLED FOR FOUR BILLION. I *TRIED* FOR MORE...
FOUR BILLION?!
FORK SOME OF THAT OVER!!
GACK
HUH? OF COURSE WE'RE SPLITTING IT.


HUH?
EQUAL SHARES. ONE BILLION FOR EACH OF US.
WHAT?!
WHY ARE YOU SO SHOCKED? I COULDN'T HAVE EARNED IT BY MYSELF.
I WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE COME CLOSE IF I HADN'T TEAMED UP WITH YOU GUYS.
OH...
YOU'RE SO NICE!
SUCH A SWEET YOUNG MAN!!
SOB!
FUGLY AS YOU ARE!
...
"YOUNG"?
EH, WE DIDN'T DO MUCH.
YUP.
ARE YOU CRAZY?! DON'T REFUSE IT!! IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, I'LL TAKE YOUR SHARES!!
WELL, MOVING ON...
WE'RE NOT DONE YET!!
OKAY, OKAY.
I'LL LEAVE THE ALLOCATION OF YOUR THREE BILLION UP TO YOU THREE.

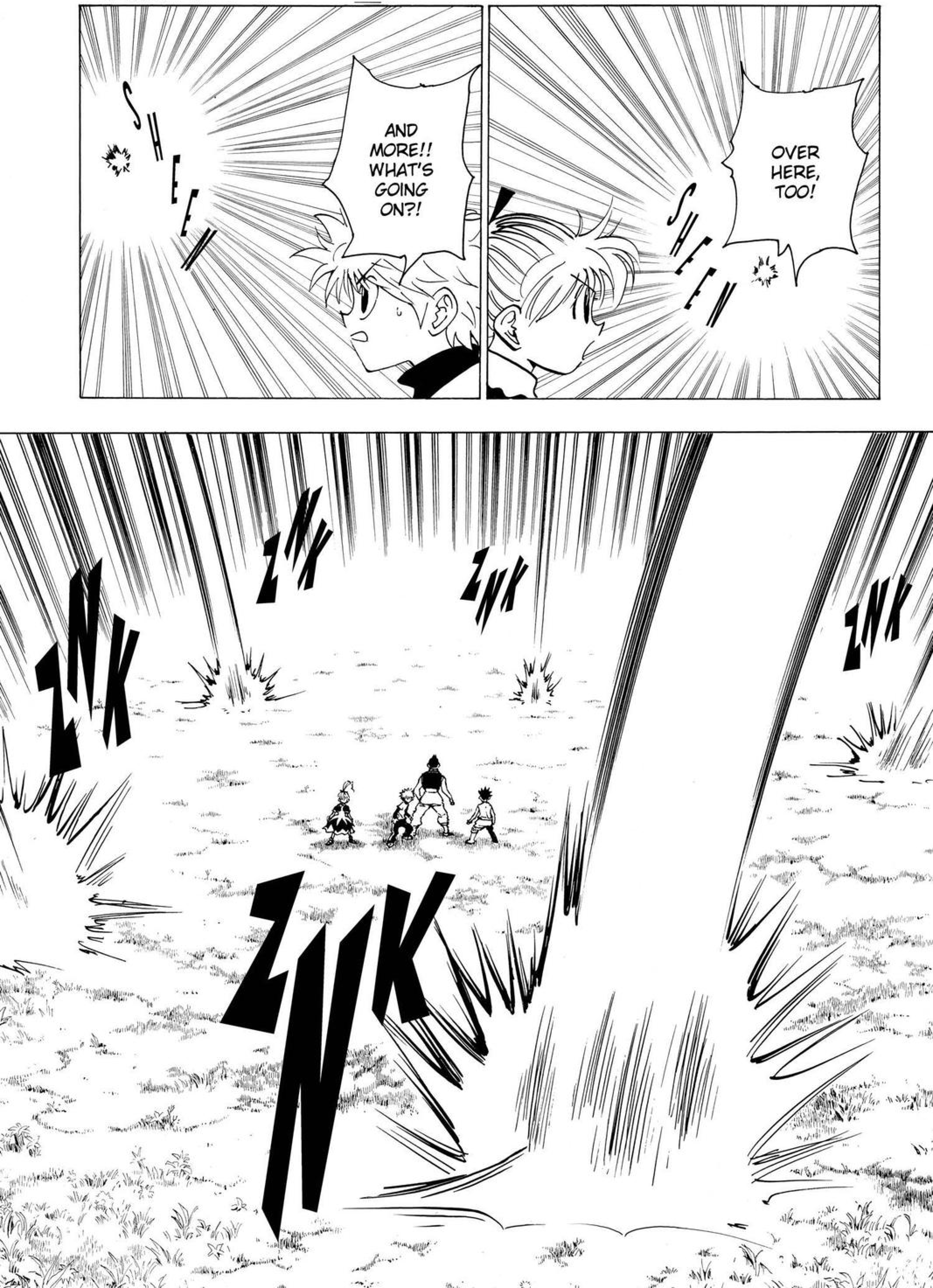

BACK TO THE ISSUE AT HAND.
ALL THE CARDS ARE YOURS! DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH THEM.
ON ONE CONDITION.
MAKE SURE YOU WIN THE GAME!
OKAY!!
NOT A PROBLEM!
I DON'T DOUBT IT.
YOU'LL HAVE 99 CARDS NOW.
OH YEAH!!
HUH?
ALL THAT'S LEFT UNCLAIMED IS NO. 000.
THE ENTIRE ISLAND IS WAITING TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE GETS 99 CARDS?
EVERYONE'S DESPERATE TO FIND OUT.
GIVE IT A TRY.
SEE WHAT IT TRIGGERS.


SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
THIS...
...IS THE 99TH CARD!!
99
PANDA MAID
S-6
AN ENDANGERED SPECIES. VERY NEAT AND LOVES TO COOK, AND EACH HAS A HOBBY SUCH AS SEWING OR GARDENING. THEY ARE EXCELLENT AT TAKING CARE
HUMAN CHILDREN.
SNAP

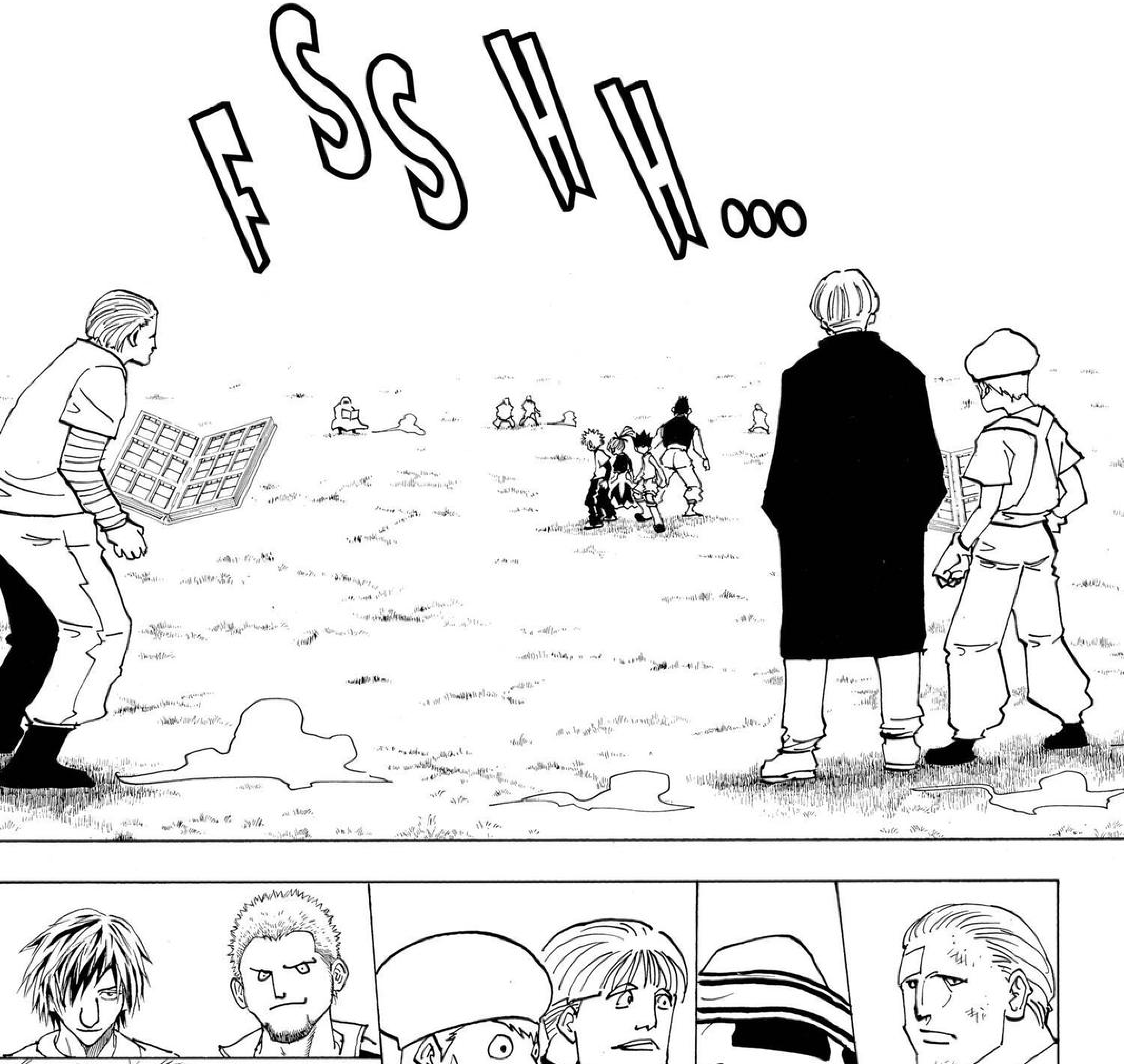

I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL PLAYERS.
?!
ONE PLAYER HAS JUST COLLECTED 99 SPECIFIED SLOT CARDS.
TO COMMEMORATE, WE ARE HOLDING AN ISLAND-WIDE QUIZ CONTEST IN TEN MINUTES.
THERE WILL BE 100 QUESTIONS CONCERNING SPECIFIED SLOT CARDS!
THE PLAYER WITH THE MOST CORRECT ANSWERS...
...WILL BE PRESENTED WITH CARD NO. 000, "RULER'S BLESSING."
PLEASE STAND BY WITH YOUR BINDERS OPEN.

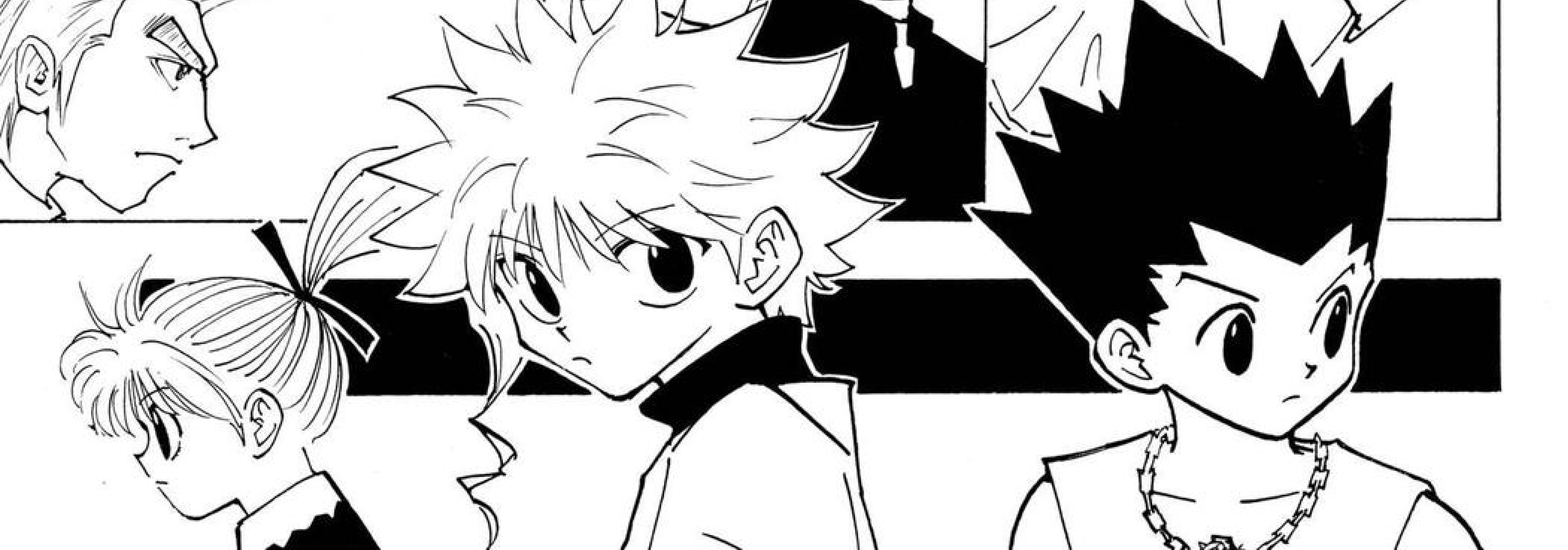

QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFIED SLOT CARDS…
LIKE N.P.C. DIALOGUE AND MINI-QUEST CONTENT.
MAKES SENSE.
SHOULD BE STUFF PLAYERS WHO STOLE THEIR CARDS BY FORCE CAN'T ANSWER.
THEN REALISTICALLY WE'D ONLY BE ABLE TO ANSWER 70-80%.
OUR ODDS AREN'T GREAT.
BUT TSEZGUERRA GOT THE MOST CARDS ON HIS OWN, AND HE'S NOT HERE.
NOBODY ELSE IS ABOVE AVERAGE.
!
SHEEEEE
SOMEONE'S COMING!

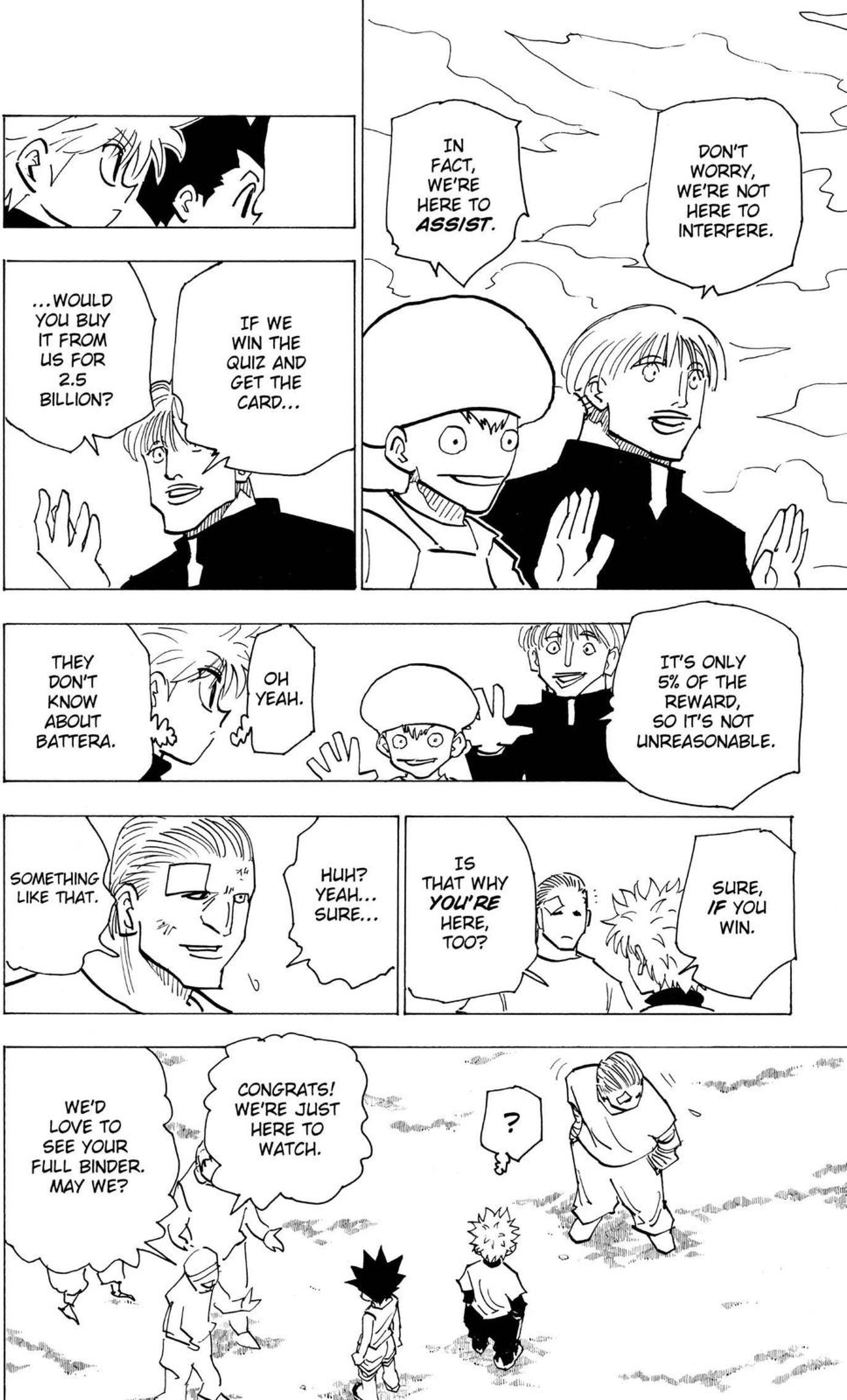
READ THIS WAY

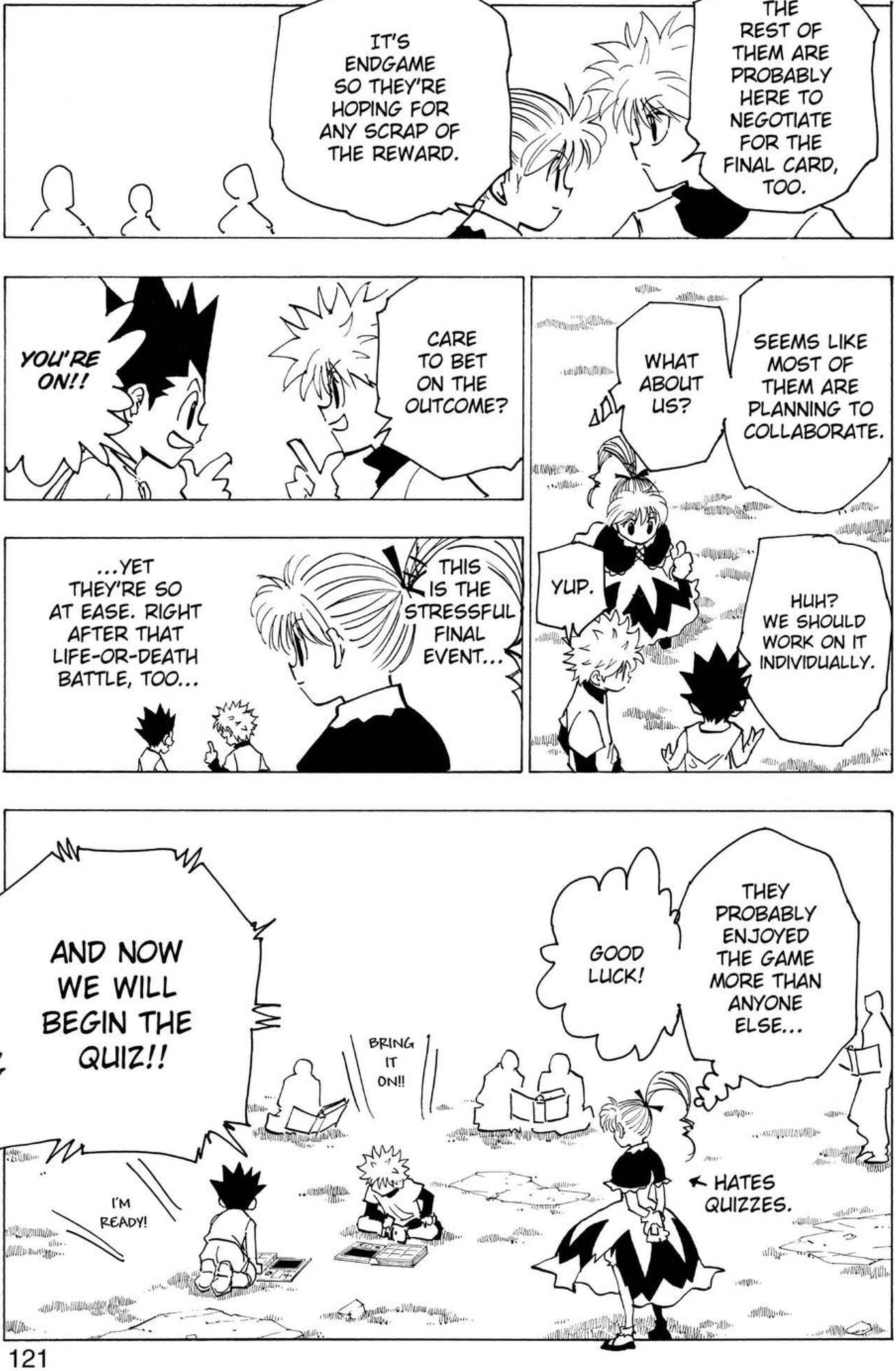

OVER HERE, TOO!
SHEEN
AND MORE!! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SHEEN
ZNK
ZNK
ZNK
ZNK
ZNK

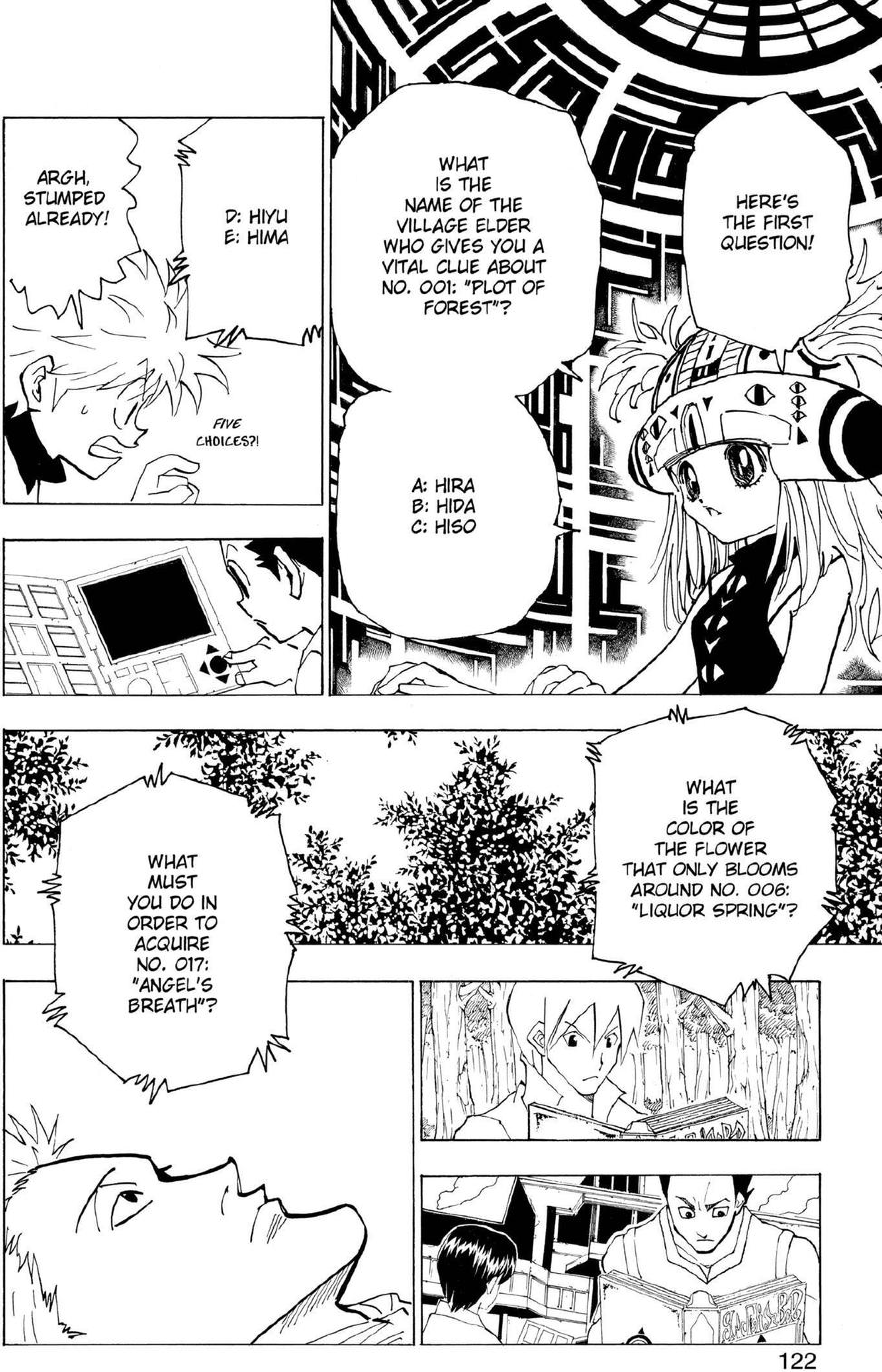
Chapter 183:
Three-Way Struggle: Part 14

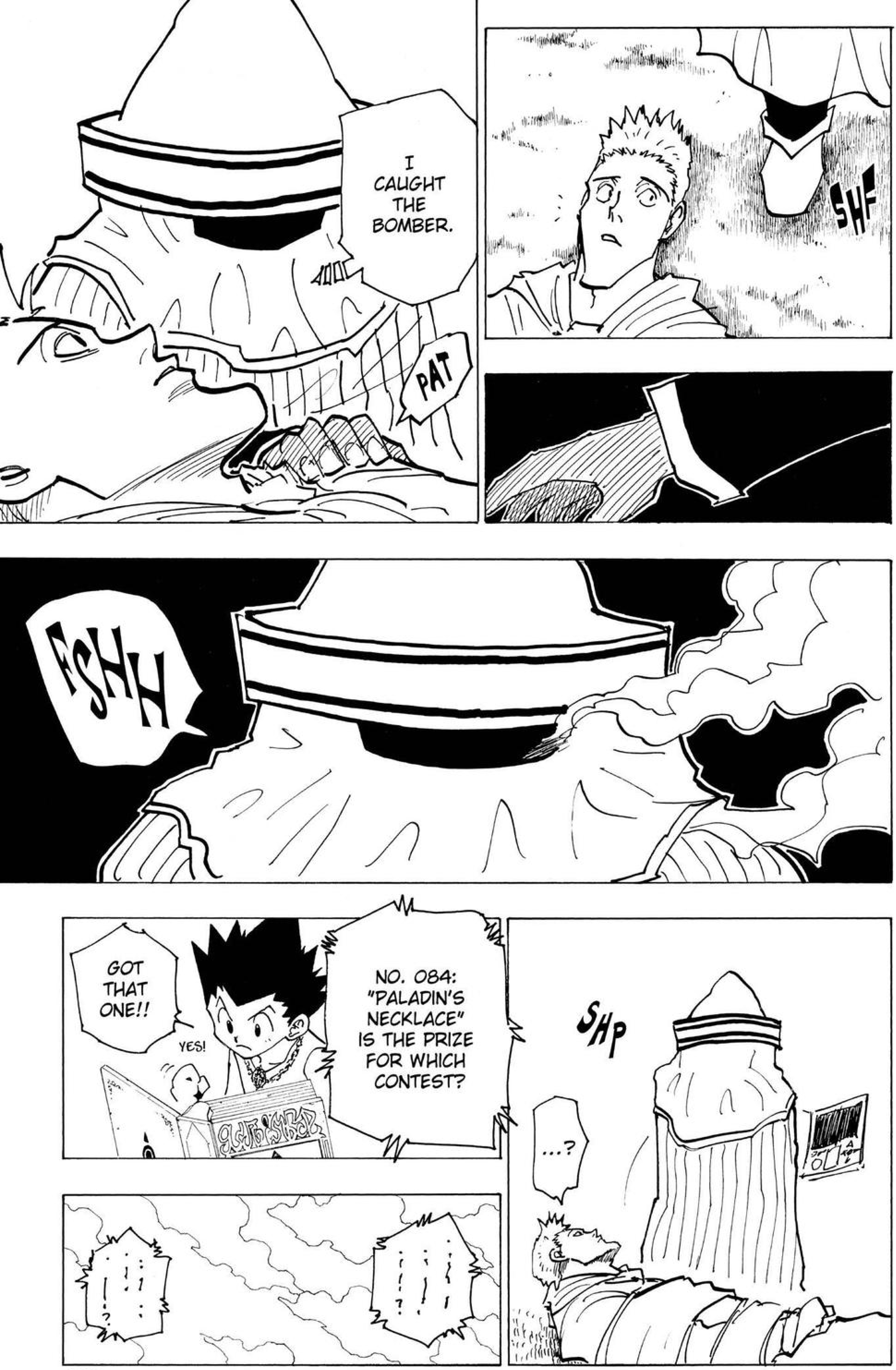


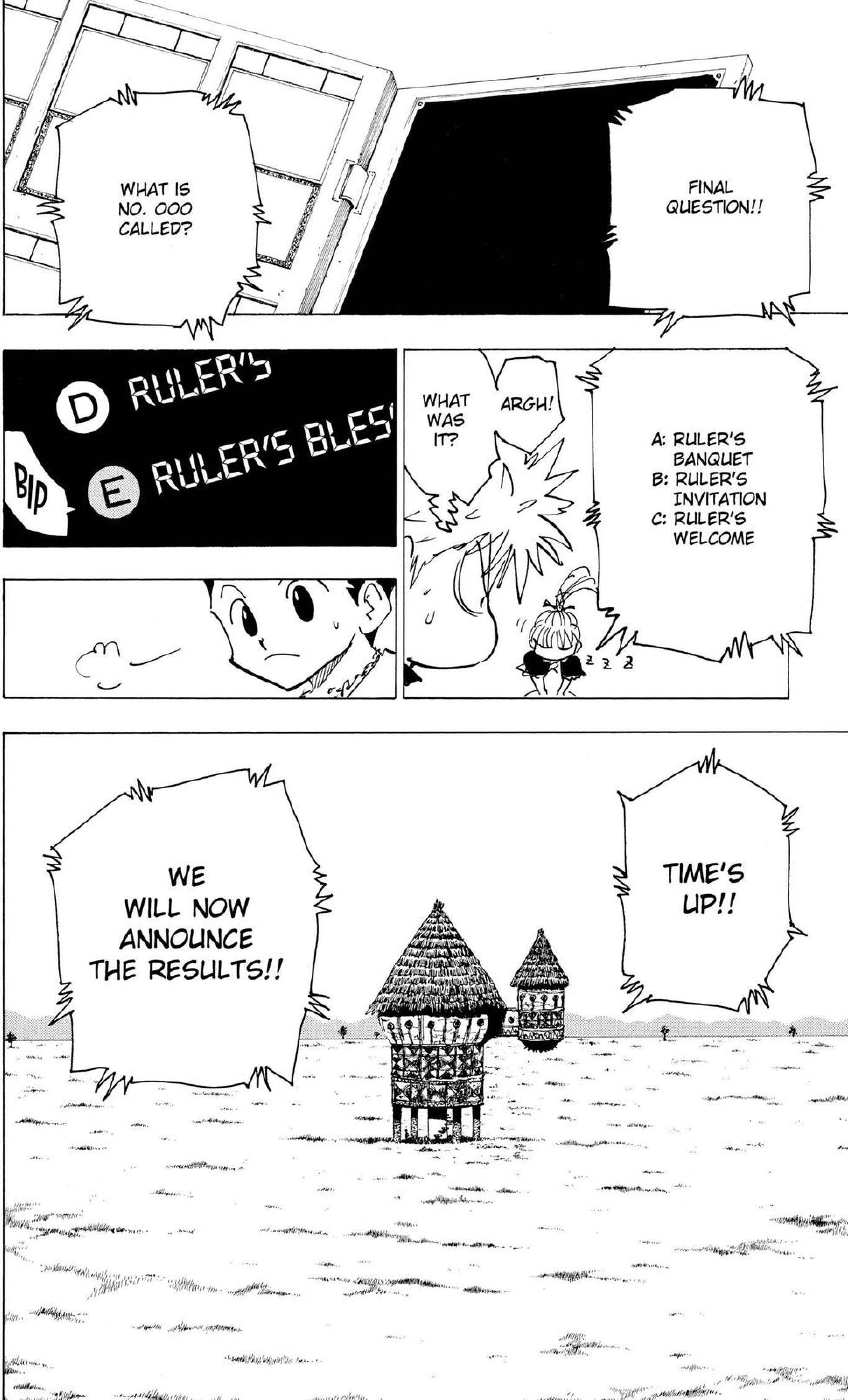



DON'T WORRY, WE'RE NOT HERE TO INTERFERE.
IN FACT, WE'RE HERE TO *ASSIST*.
IF WE WIN THE QUIZ AND GET THE CARD...
...WOULD YOU BUY IT FROM US FOR 2.5 BILLION?
IT'S ONLY 5% OF THE REWARD, SO IT'S NOT UNREASONABLE.
OH YEAH.
THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT BATTERA.
SURE, *IF* YOU WIN.
IS THAT WHY *YOU'RE* HERE, TOO?
HUH? YEAH... SURE...
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
?
CONGRATS! WE'RE JUST HERE TO WATCH.
WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOUR FULL BINDER. MAY WE?

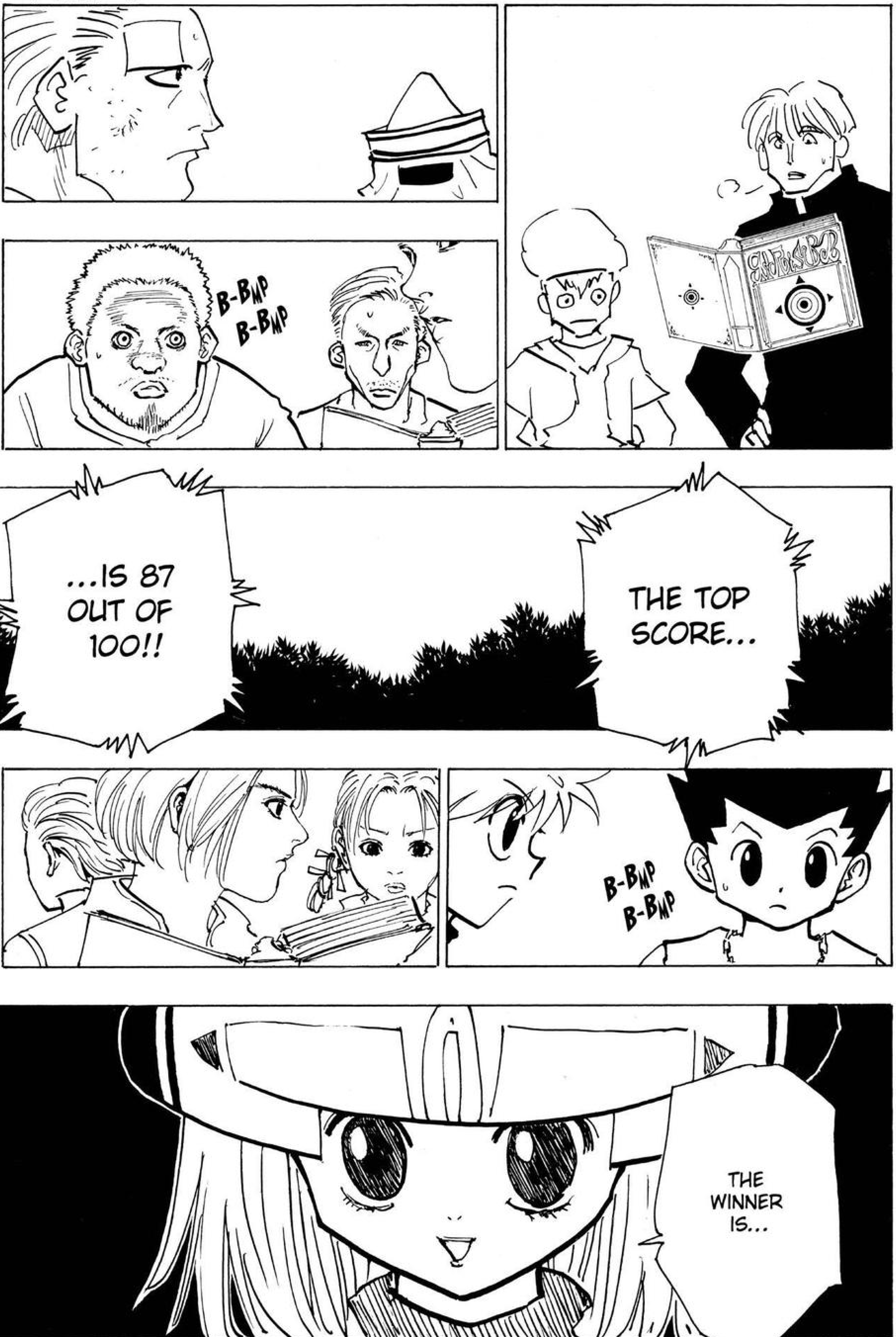

THE REST OF THEM ARE PROBABLY HERE TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE FINAL CARD, TOO.
IT'S ENDGAME SO THEY'RE HOPING FOR ANY SCRAP OF THE REWARD.
SEEMS LIKE MOST OF THEM ARE PLANNING TO COLLABORATE.
WHAT ABOUT US?
HUH? WE SHOULD WORK ON IT INDIVIDUALLY.
YUP.
CARE TO BET ON THE OUTCOME?
YOU'RE ON!!
THIS IS THE STRESSFUL FINAL EVENT...
...YET THEY'RE SO AT EASE. RIGHT AFTER THAT LIFE-OR-DEATH BATTLE, TOO...
THEY PROBABLY ENJOYED THE GAME MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE...
GOOD LUCK!
HATES QUIZZES.
BRING IT ON!!
AND NOW WE WILL BEGIN THE QUIZ!!
I'M READY!

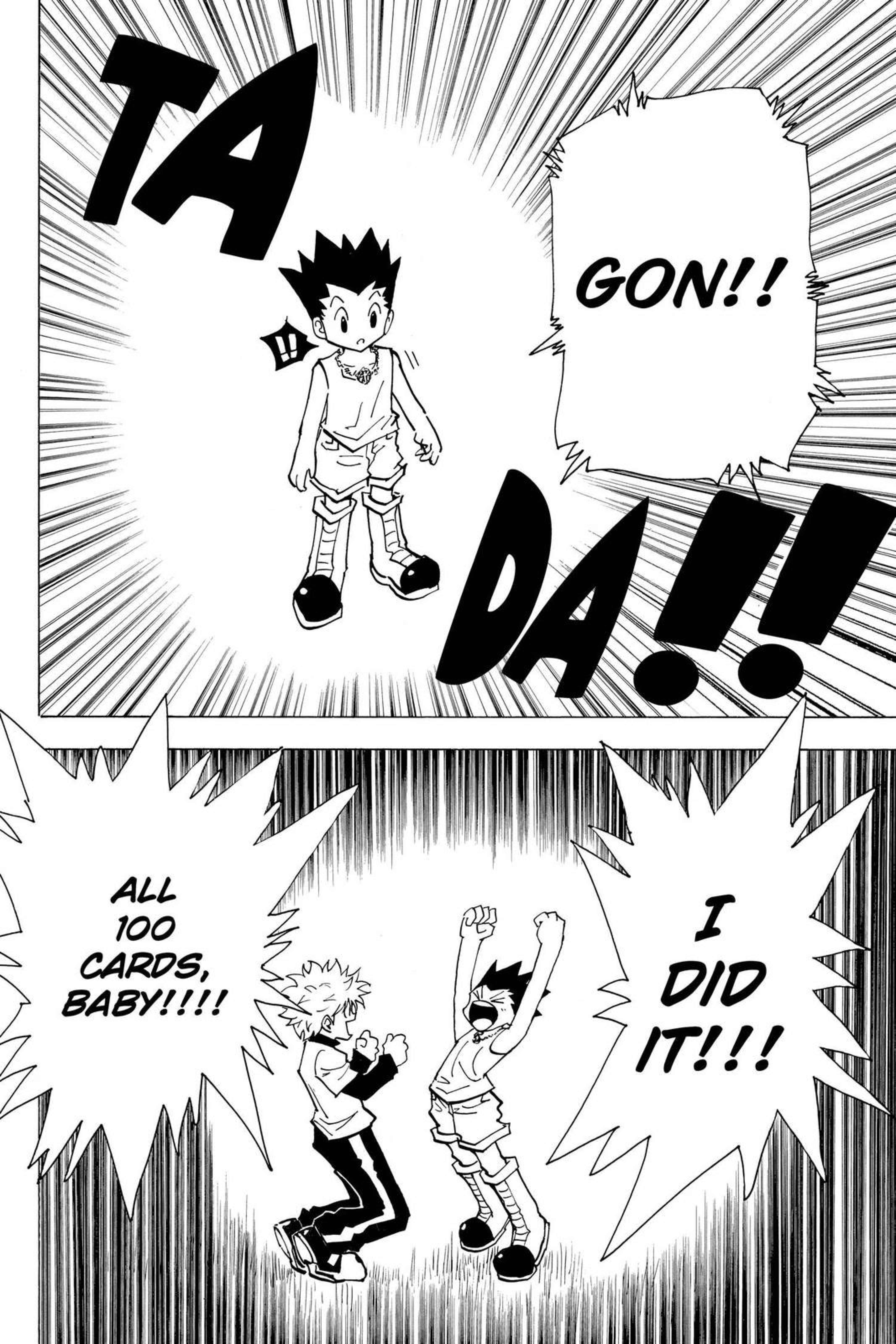

HERE'S THE FIRST QUESTION!
WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE VILLAGE ELDER WHO GIVES YOU A VITAL CLUE ABOUT NO. 001: "PLOT OF FOREST"?
A: HIRA B: HIDA C: HISO
D: HIYU E: HIMA
ARGH, STUMPED ALREADY!
FIVE CHOICES?!
WHAT IS THE COLOR OF THE FLOWER THAT ONLY BLOOMS AROUND NO. 006: "LIQUOR SPRING"?
WHAT MUST YOU DO IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE NO. 017: "ANGEL'S BREATH"?

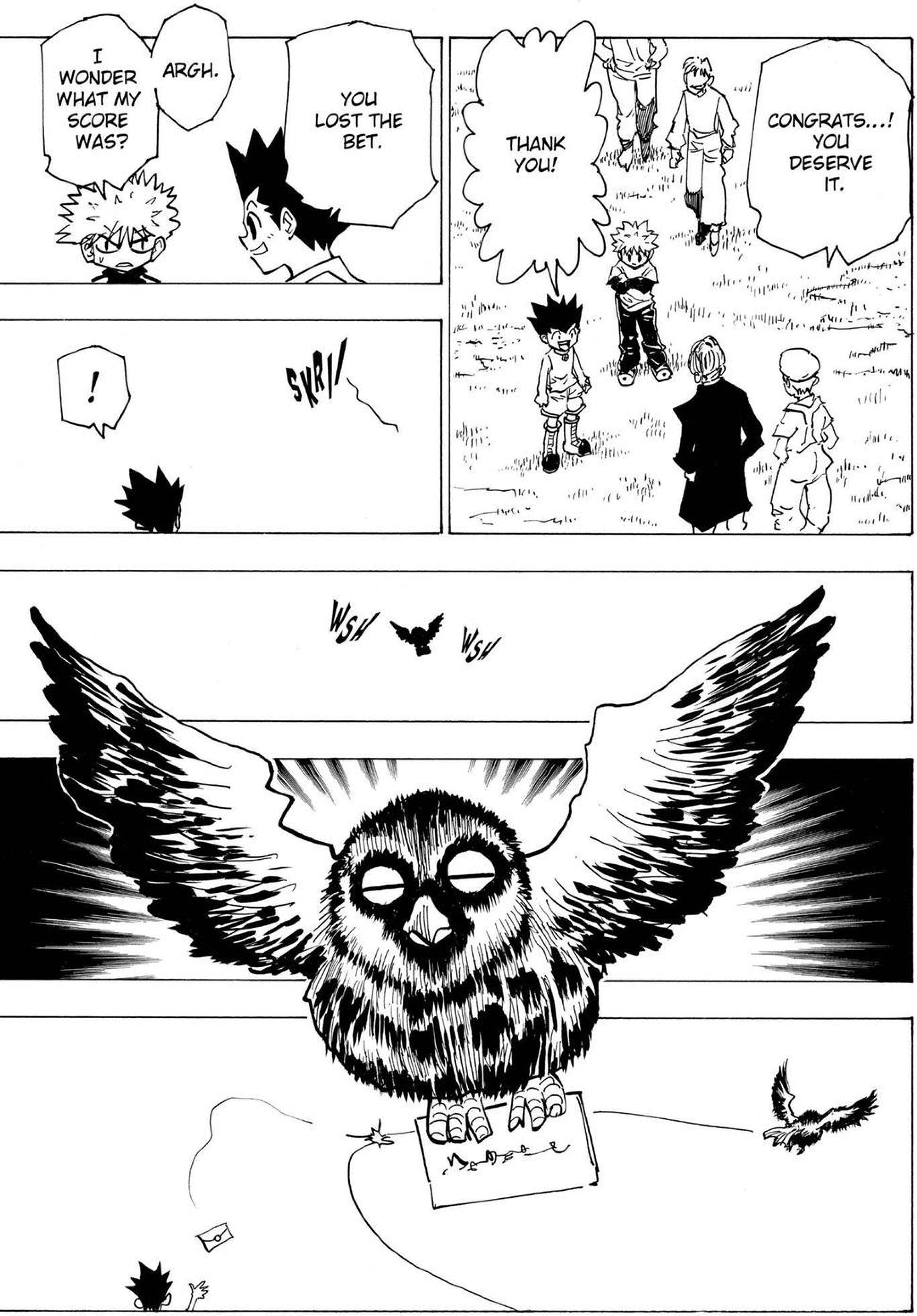

SHF
I CAUGHT THE BOMBER.
PAT
FSHH
SHP
...?
NO. 084: "PALADIN'S NECKLACE" IS THE PRIZE FOR WHICH CONTEST?
GOT THAT ONE!!
YES!
...!!...?
...!!...?

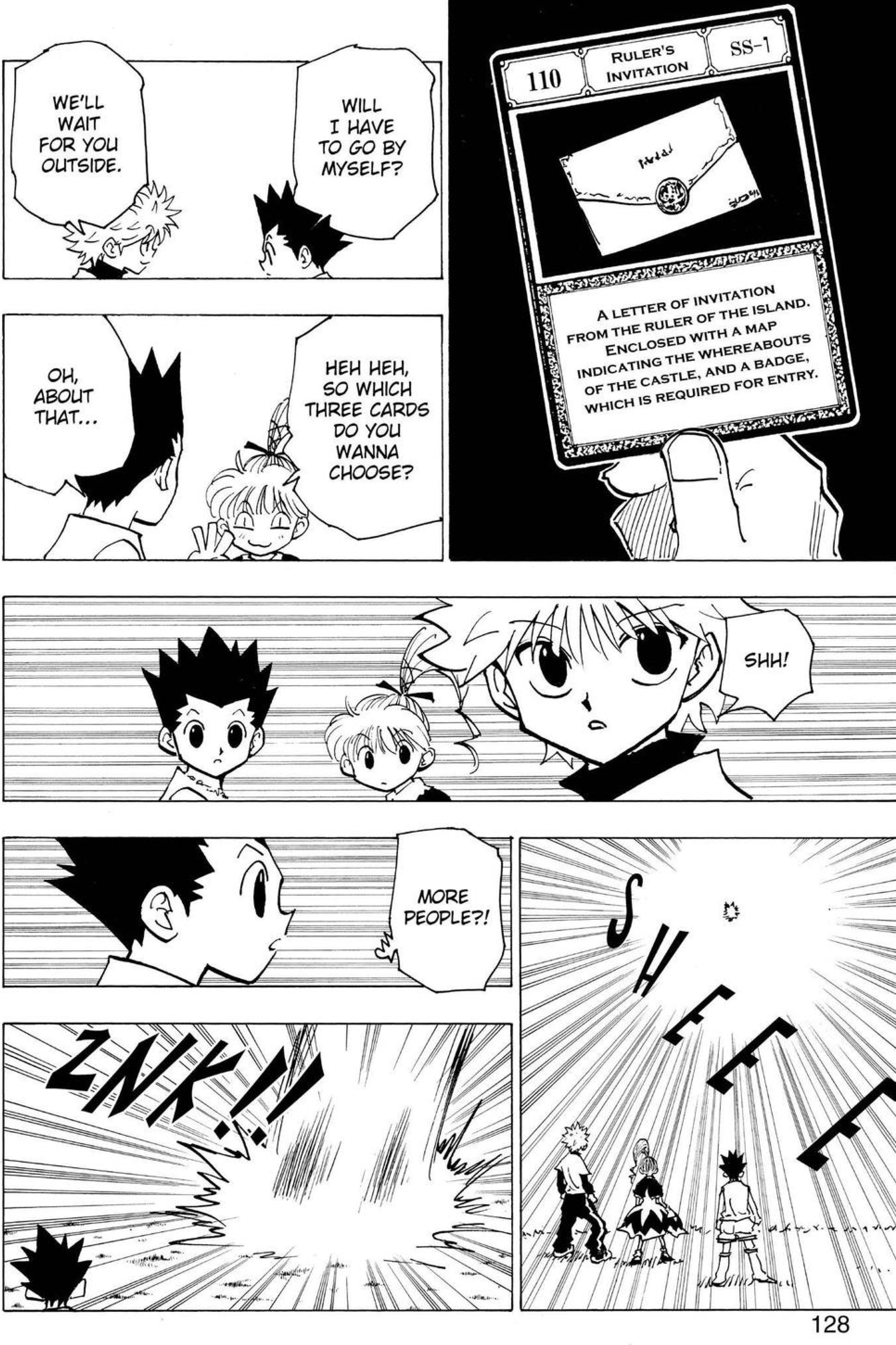

FINAL QUESTION!!
WHAT IS NO. 000 CALLED?
A: RULER'S BANQUET
B: RULER'S INVITATION
C: RULER'S WELCOME
ARGH!
WHAT WAS IT?
Z Z Z
D RULER'S
E RULER'S BLES'
BIP
TIME'S UP!!
WE WILL NOW ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS!!

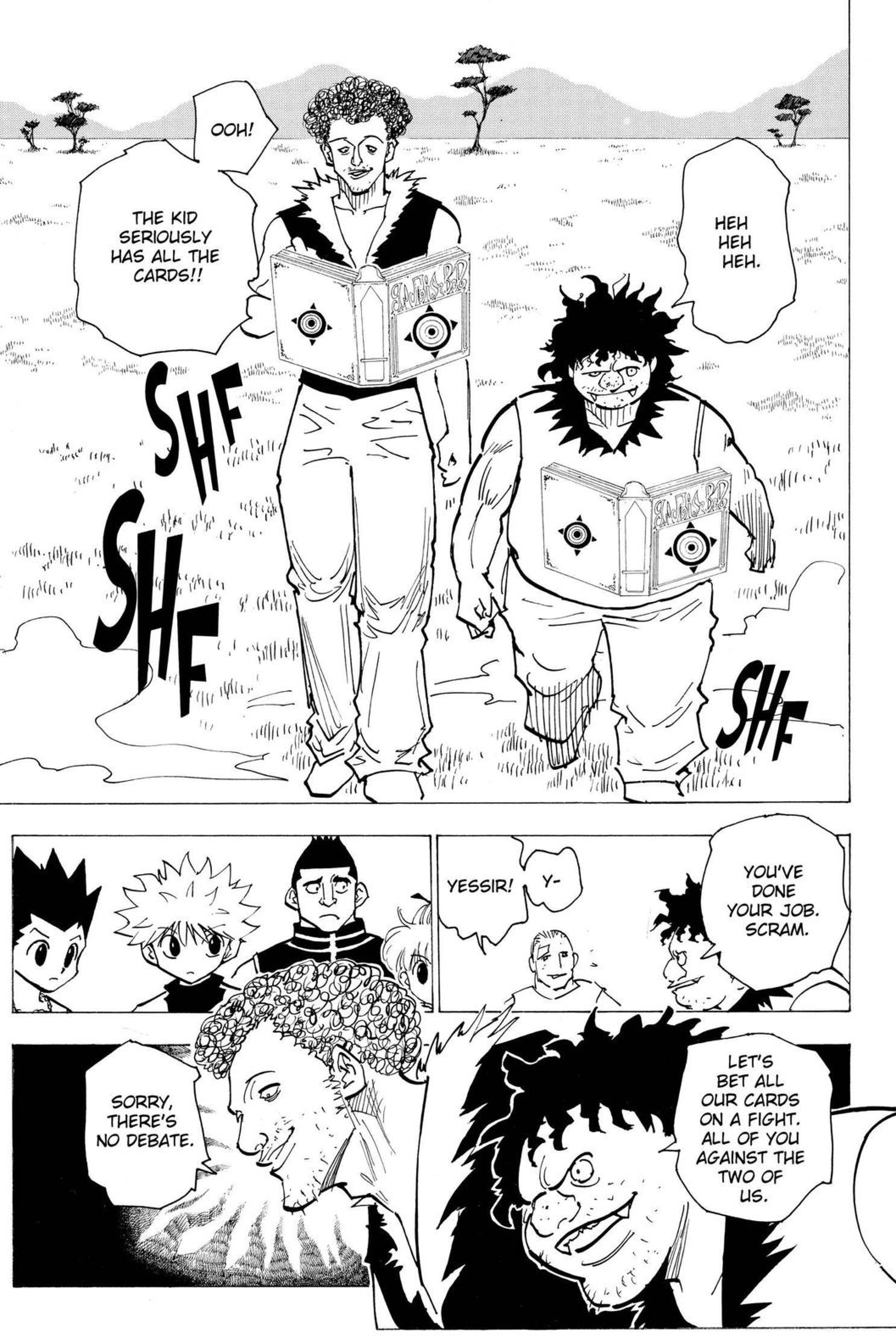
READ THIS WAY

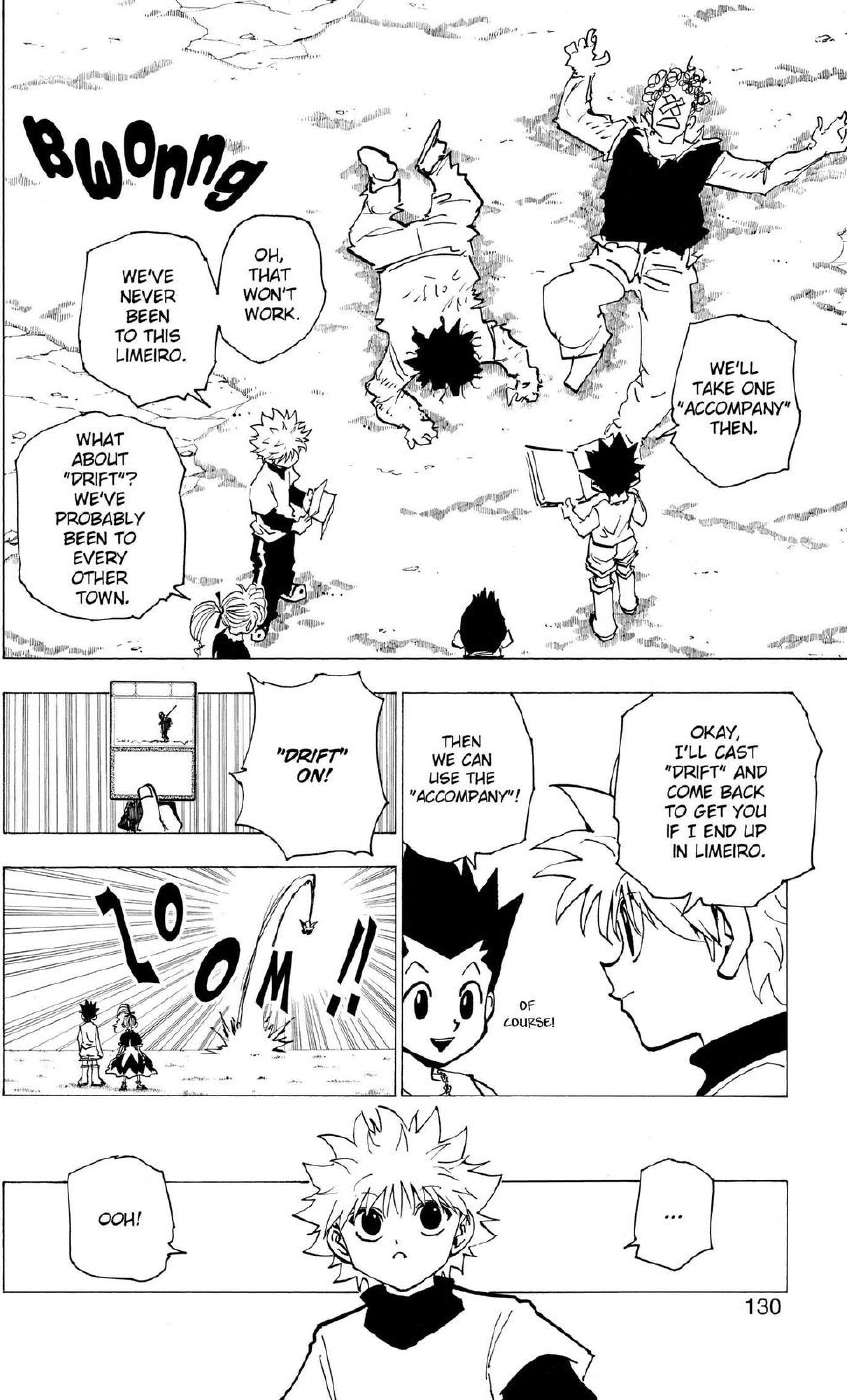

B-BMP B-BMP
THE TOP SCORE...
...IS 87 OUT OF 100!!
B-BMP B-BMP
THE WINNER IS...

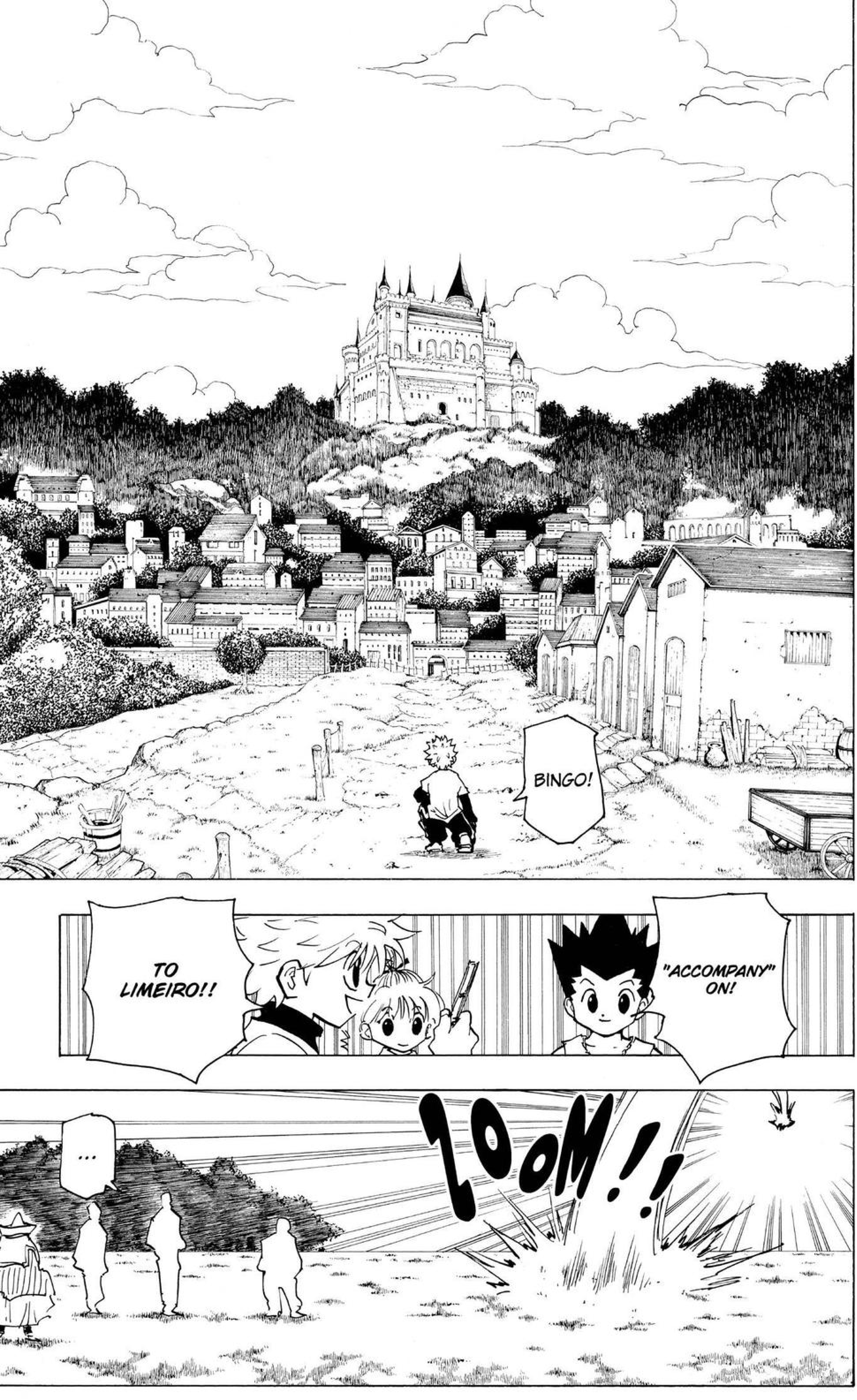

GON!!
TA
DA!!
!!
I DID IT!!!
ALL 100 CARDS, BABY!!!!

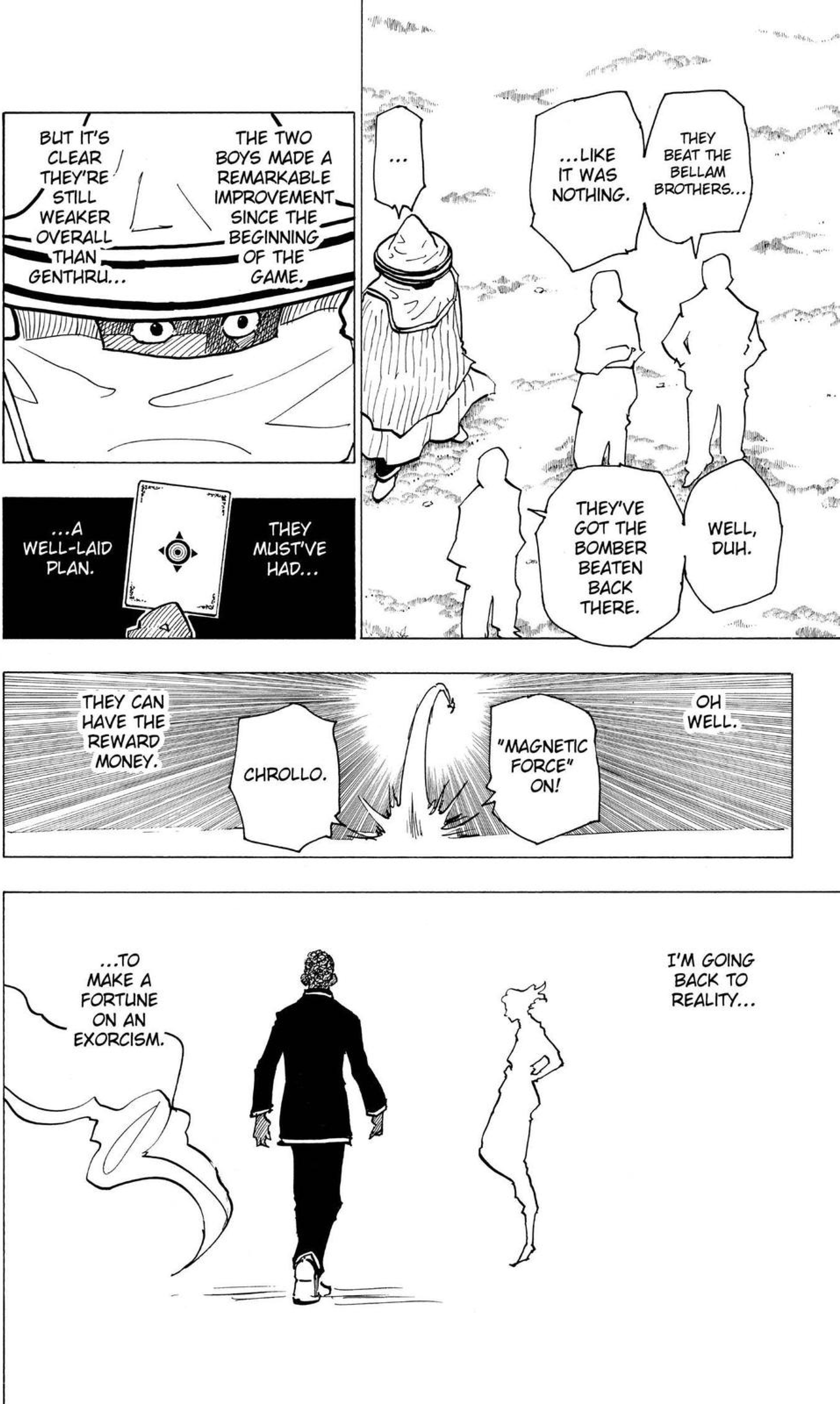

CONGRATS...! YOU DESERVE IT.
THANK YOU!
YOU LOST THE BET.
ARGH.
I WONDER WHAT MY SCORE WAS?
!
SKRI
WSH
WSH

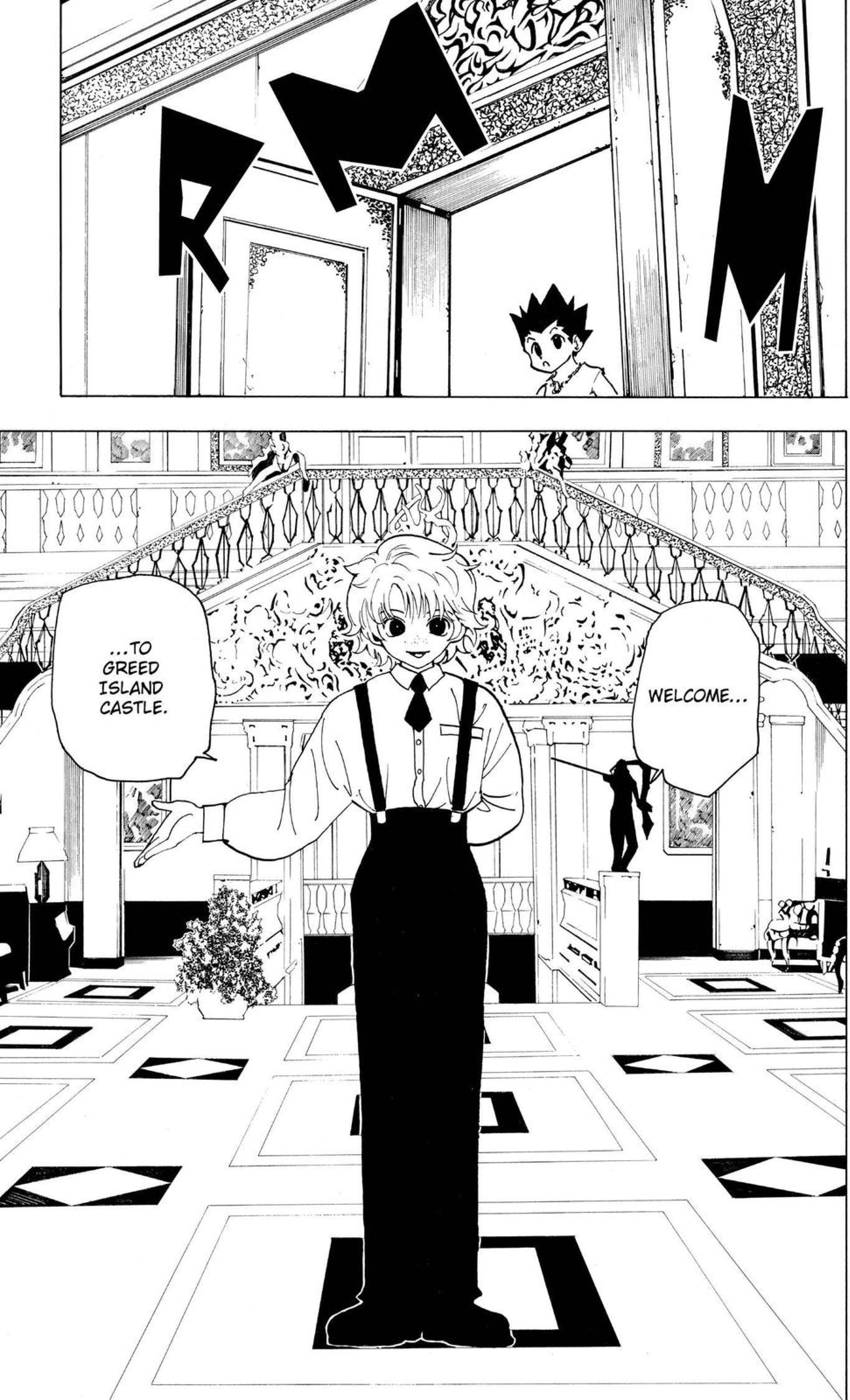

110
RULER'S INVITATION
SS-1
A LETTER OF INVITATION FROM THE RULER OF THE ISLAND. ENCLOSED WITH A MAP INDICATING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE CASTLE, AND A BADGE, WHICH IS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY.
WILL I HAVE TO GO BY MYSELF?
WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU OUTSIDE.
HEH HEH, SO WHICH THREE CARDS DO YOU WANNA CHOOSE?
OH, ABOUT THAT...
SHH!
SHEEEE
MORE PEOPLE?!
ZNK!!


HEH HEH HEH.
OOH!
THE KID SERIOUSLY HAS ALL THE CARDS!!
SHF
SHF
SHF
YOU'VE DONE YOUR JOB. SCRAM.
Y-
YESSIR!
LET'S BET ALL OUR CARDS ON A FIGHT. ALL OF YOU AGAINST THE TWO OF US.
SORRY, THERE'S NO DEBATE.

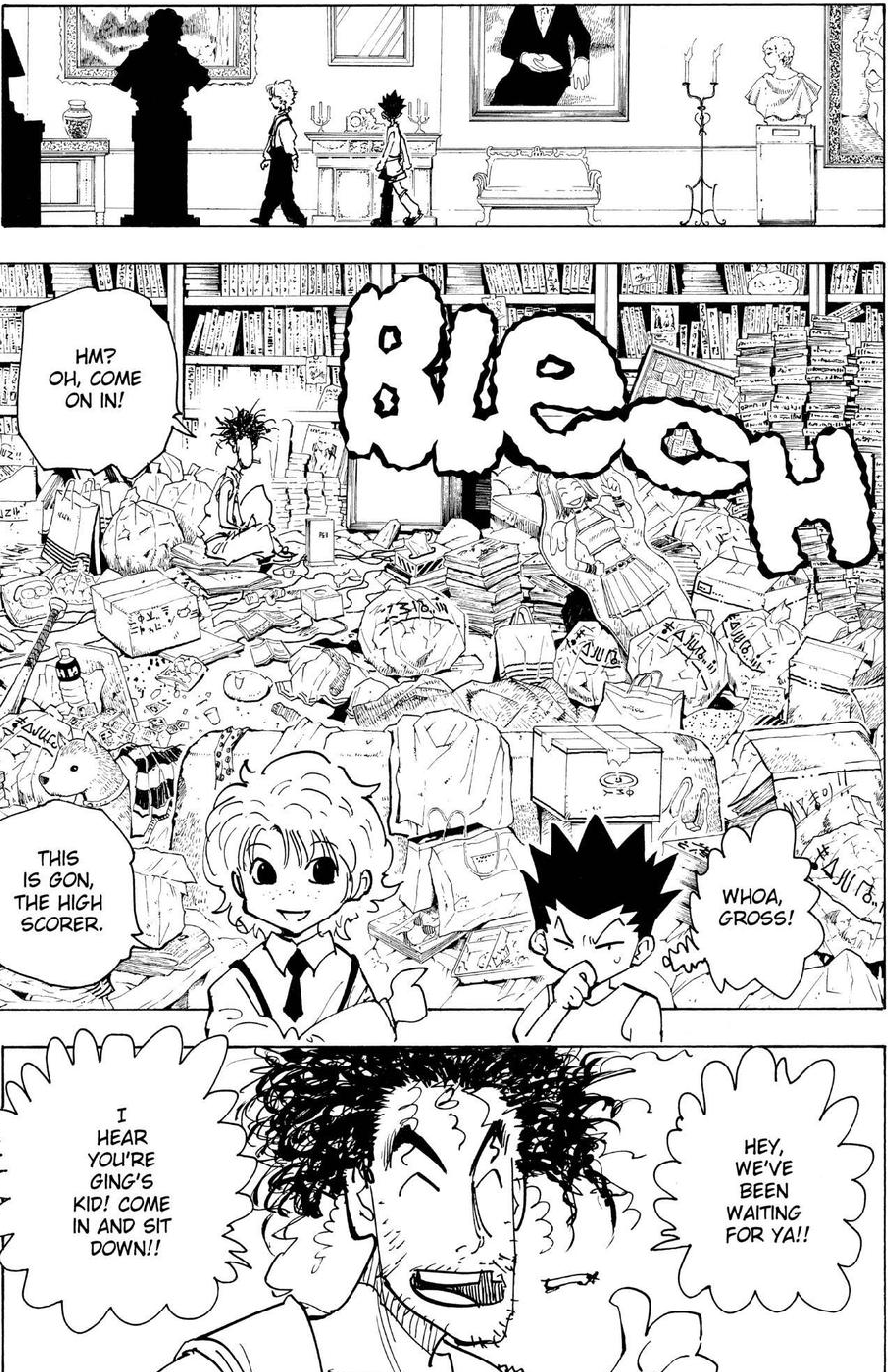

BWONNG
WE'LL TAKE ONE "ACCOMPANY" THEN.
OH, THAT WON'T WORK.
WE'VE NEVER BEEN TO THIS LIMEIRO.
WHAT ABOUT "DRIFT"? WE'VE PROBABLY BEEN TO EVERY OTHER TOWN.
OKAY, I'LL CAST "DRIFT" AND COME BACK TO GET YOU IF I END UP IN LIMEIRO.
THEN WE CAN USE THE "ACCOMPANY"!
OF COURSE!
"DRIFT" ON!
ZOOM!!
...
OOH!

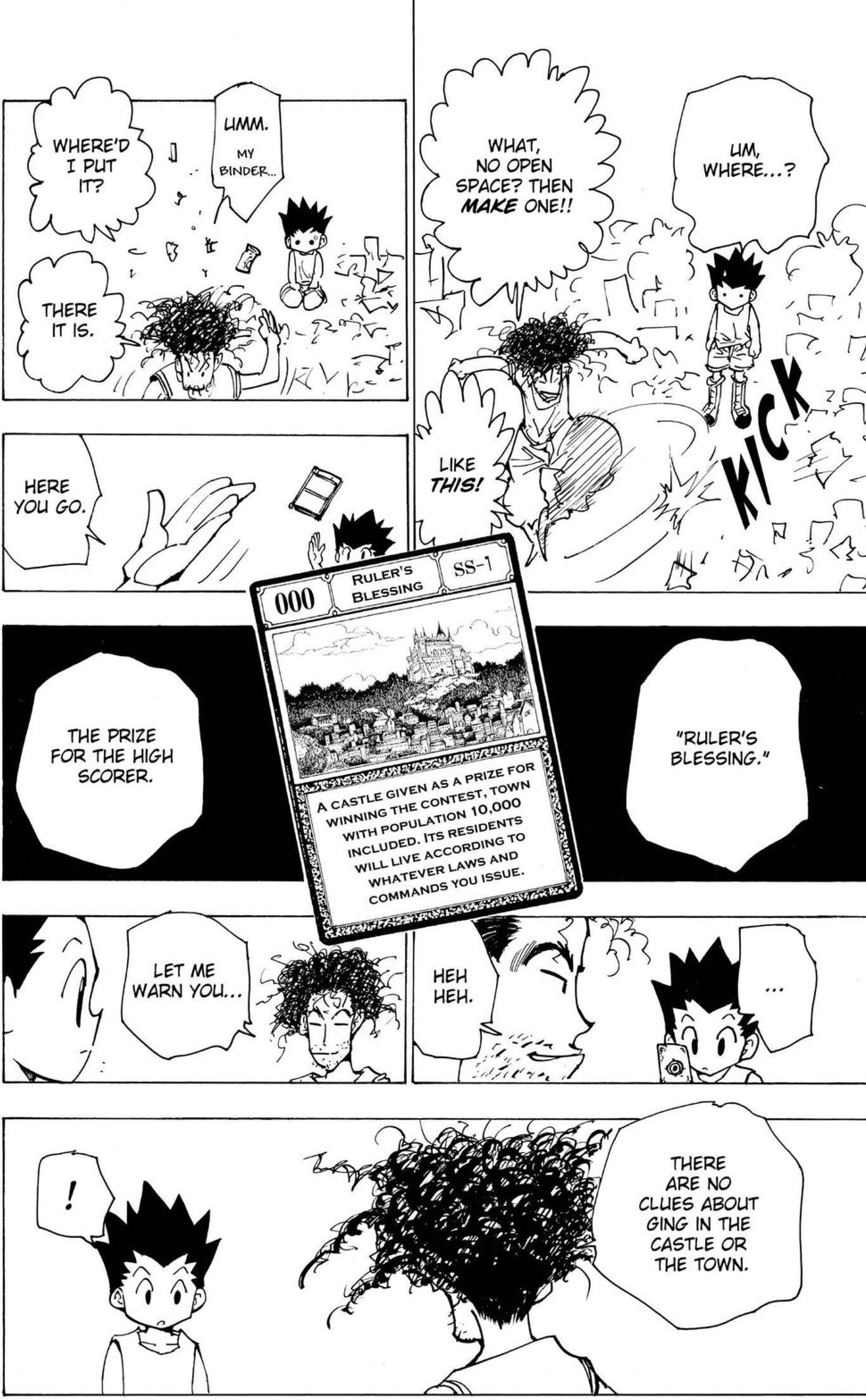

BINGO!
"ACCOMPANY" ON!
TO LIMEIRO!!
ZOOM!!
...

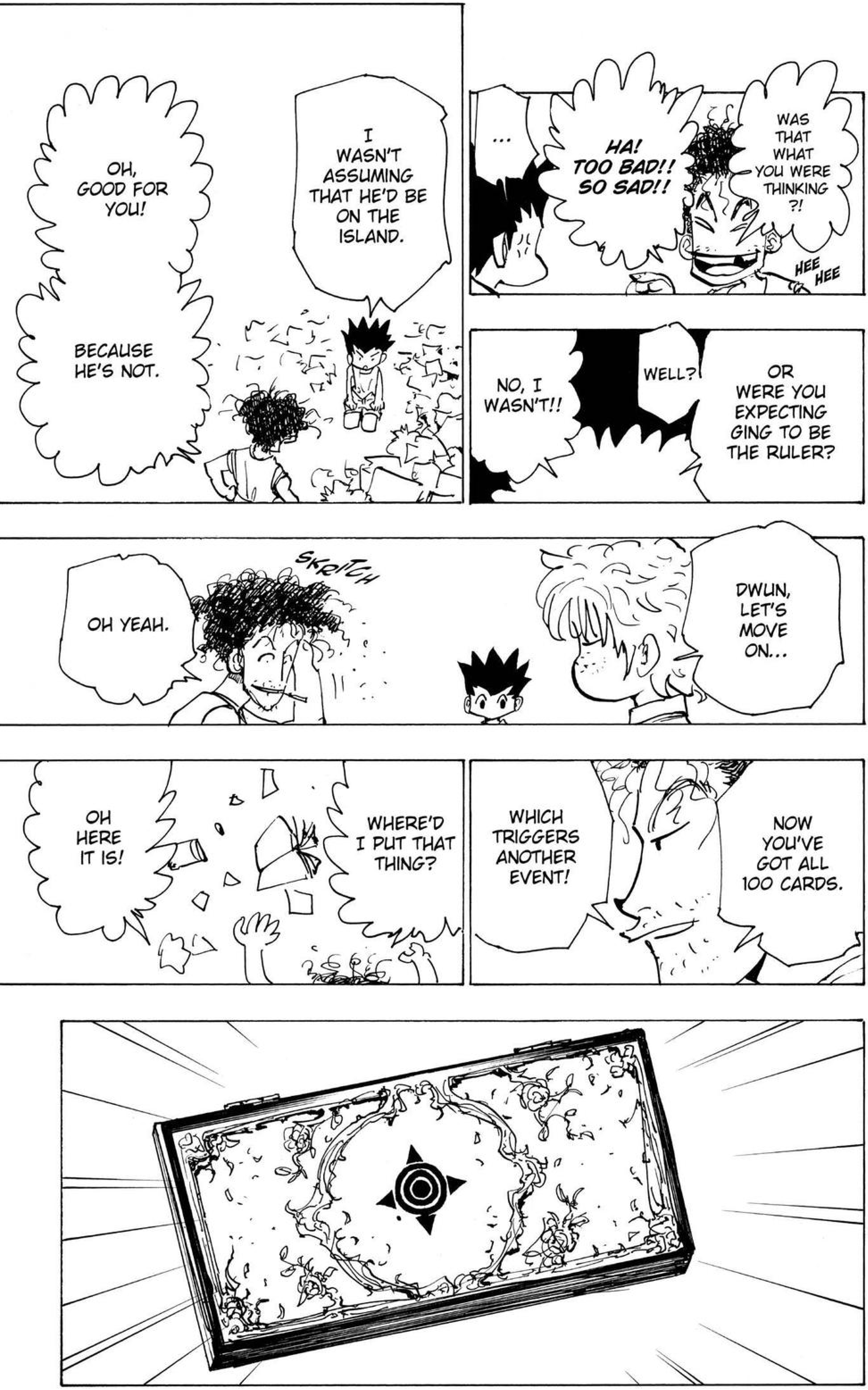

THEY BEAT THE BELLAM BROTHERS…
…LIKE IT WAS NOTHING.
…
WELL, DUH.
THEY'VE GOT THE BOMBER BEATEN BACK THERE.
THE TWO BOYS MADE A REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE GAME.
BUT IT'S CLEAR THEY'RE STILL WEAKER OVERALL THAN GENTHRU…
THEY MUST'VE HAD…
…A WELL-LAID PLAN.
OH WELL.
"MAGNETIC FORCE" ON!
CHROLLO.
THEY CAN HAVE THE REWARD MONEY.
I'M GOING BACK TO REALITY…
…TO MAKE A FORTUNE ON AN EXORCISM.

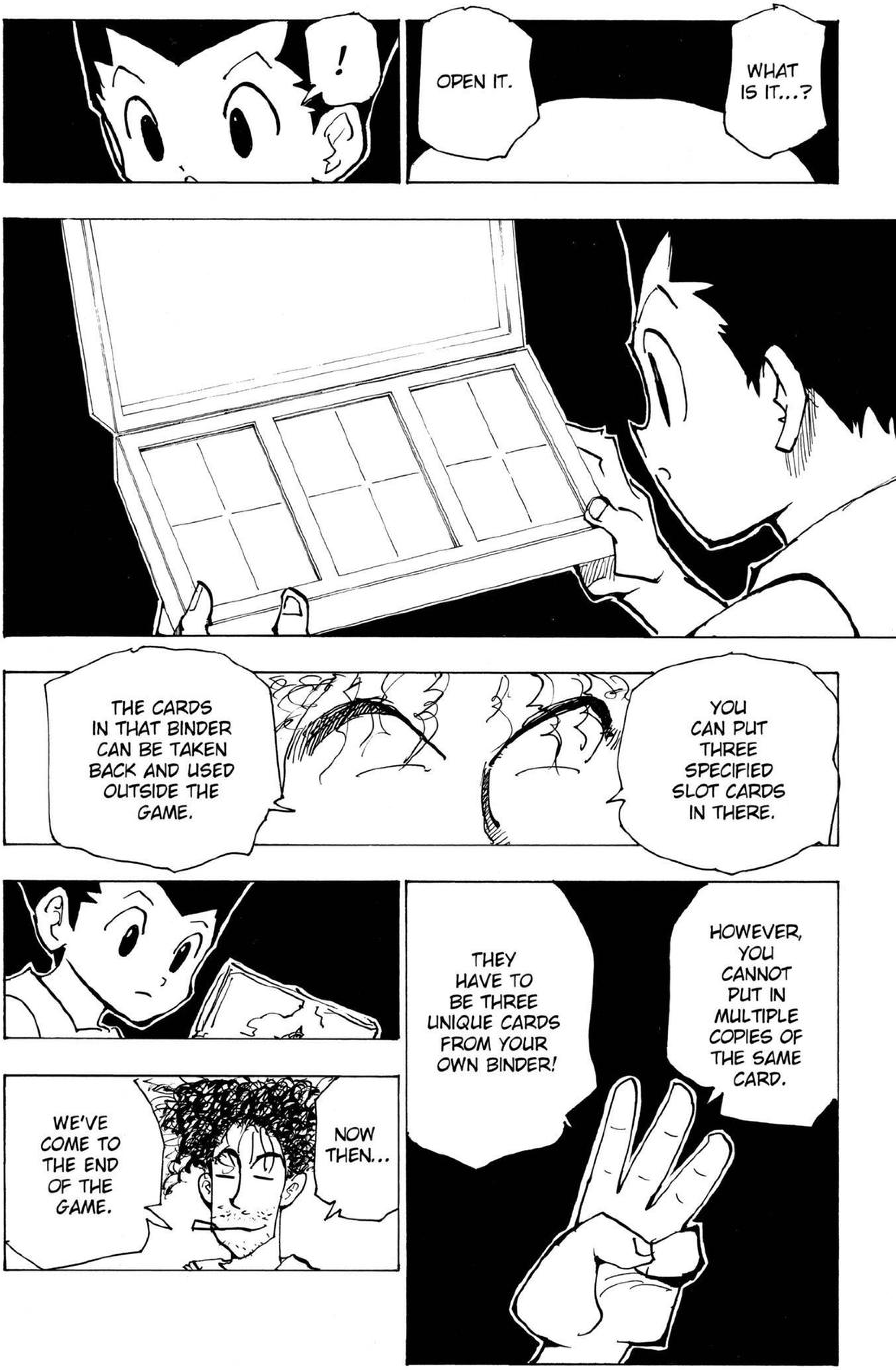

RMM
WELCOME...
...TO GREED ISLAND CASTLE.

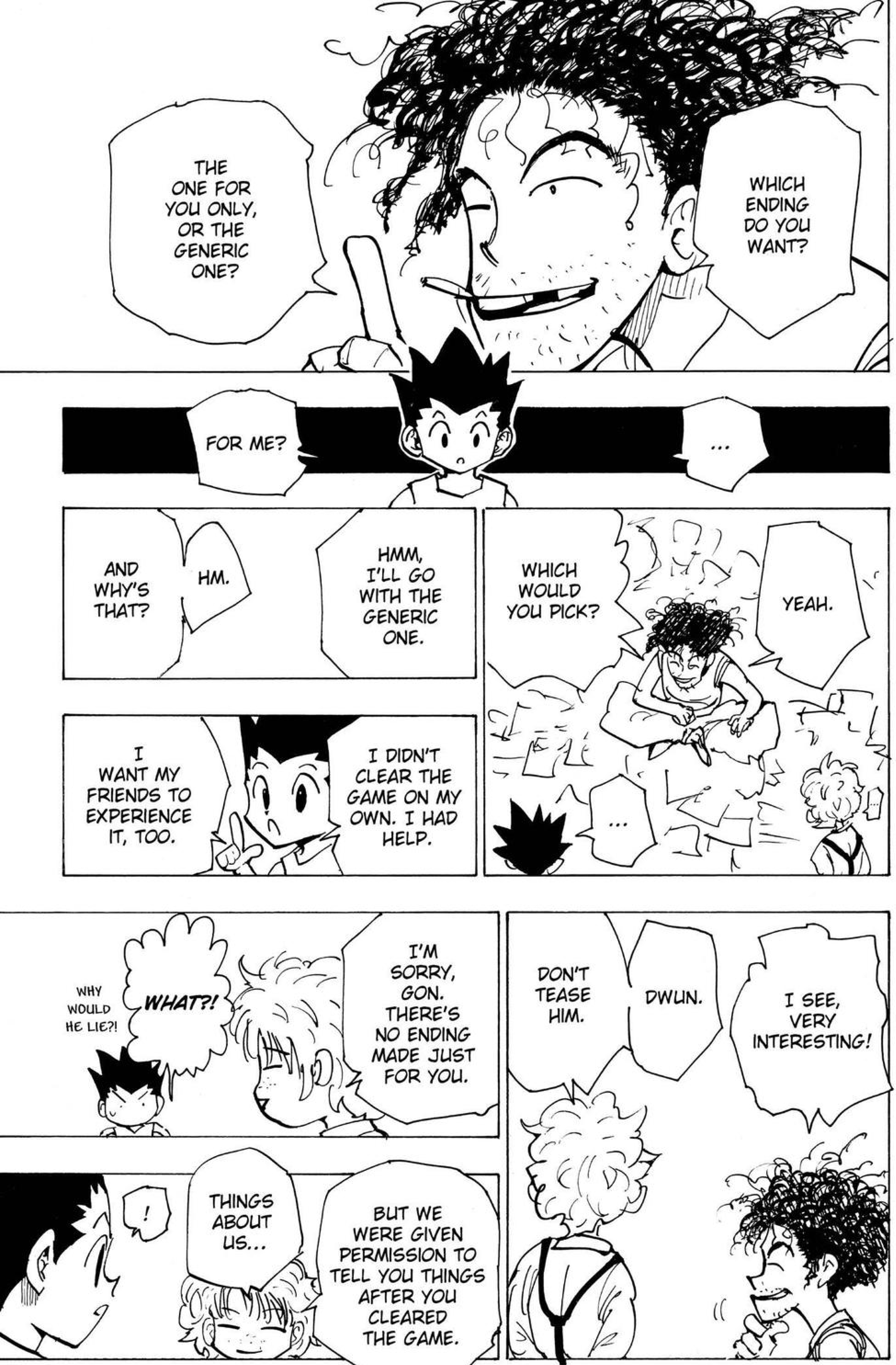
Chapter 184:
The Choice of Three Cards

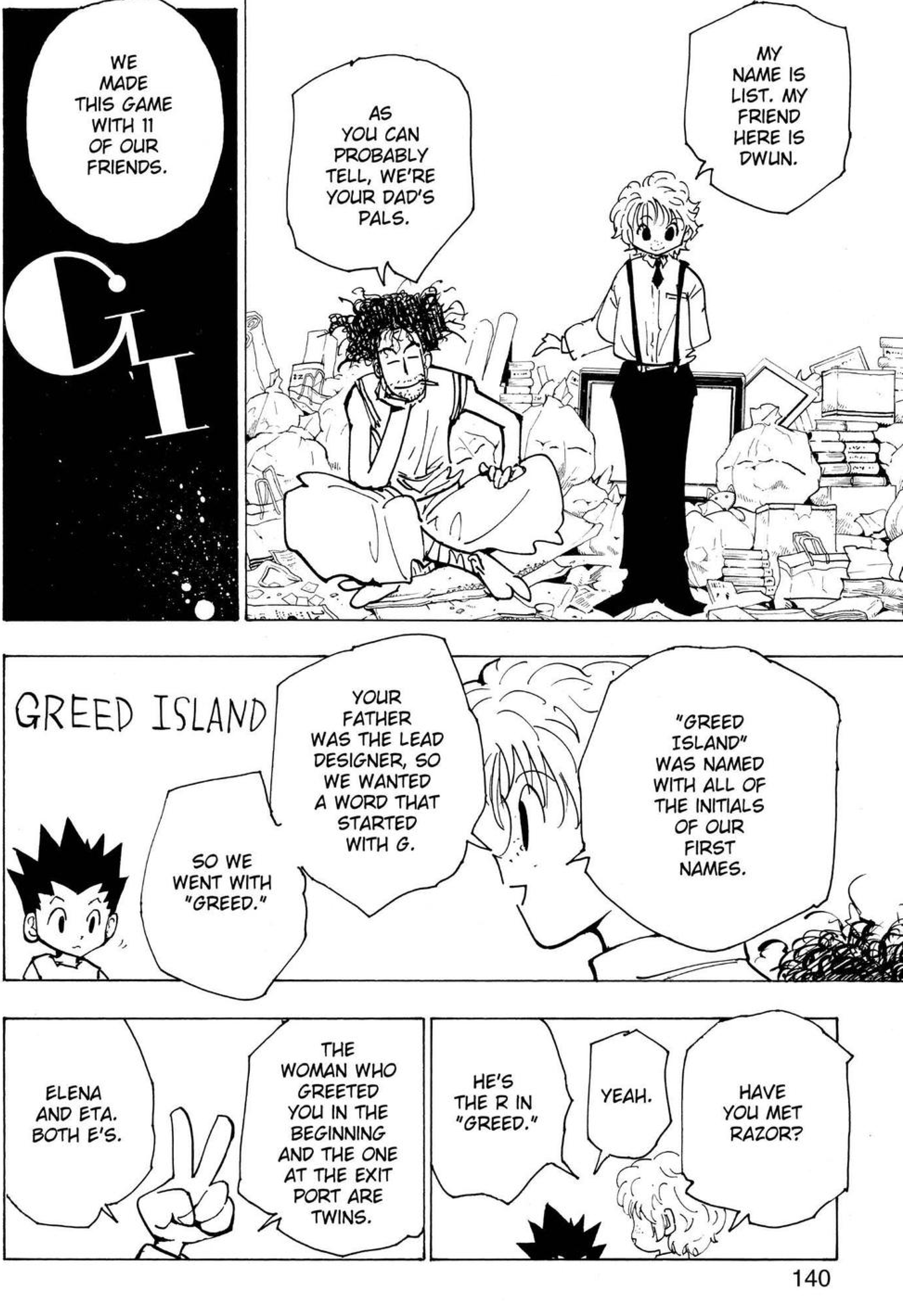

BLEECH
HM? OH, COME ON IN!
WHOA, GROSS!
THIS IS GON, THE HIGH SCORER.
HEY, WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YA!!
I HEAR YOU'RE GING'S KID! COME IN AND SIT DOWN!!

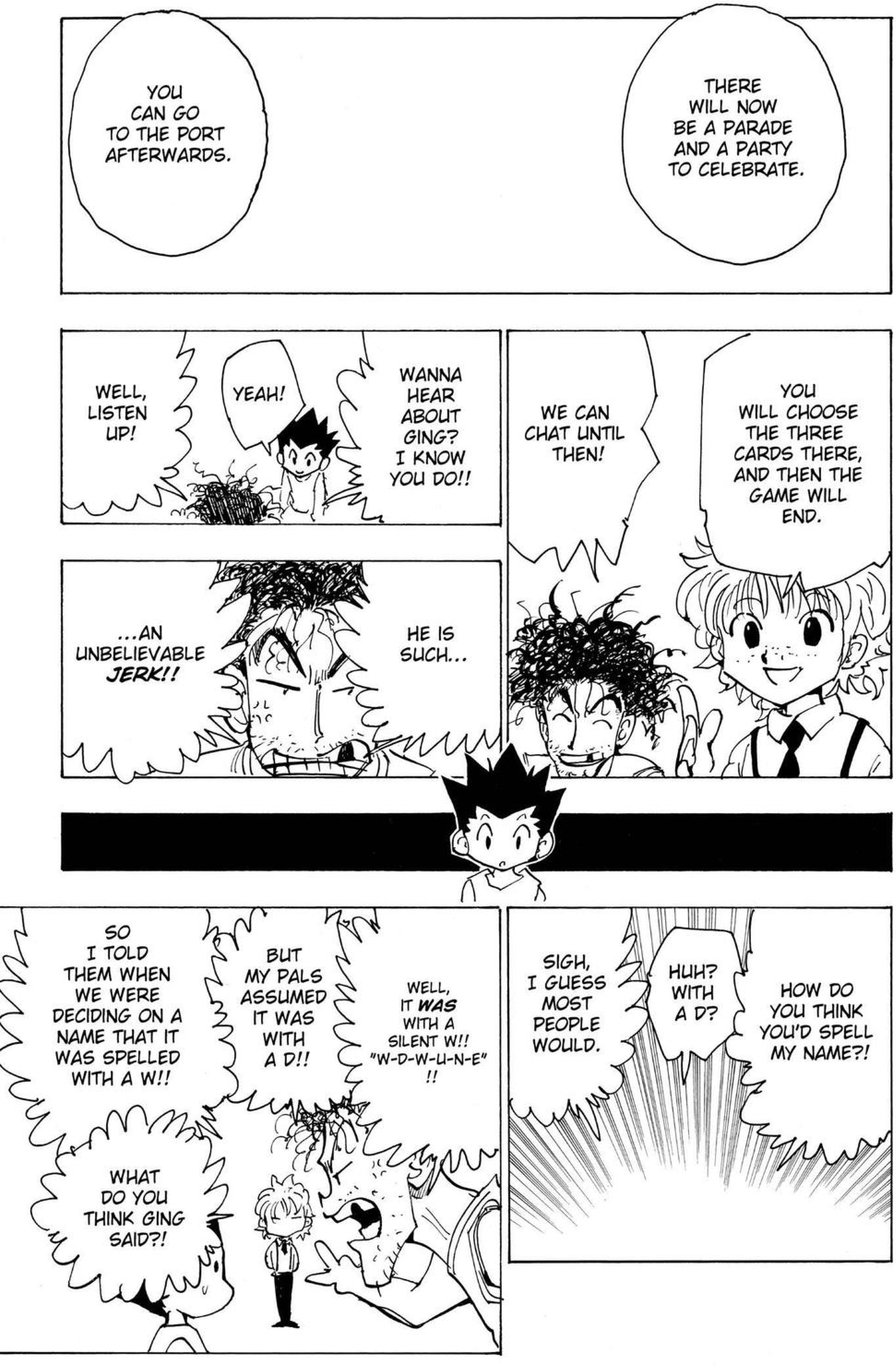

UM, WHERE...?
WHAT, NO OPEN SPACE? THEN *MAKE* ONE!!
LIKE *THIS!*
KICK
UMM. MY BINDER...
WHERE'D I PUT IT?
THERE IT IS.
HERE YOU GO.
000
RULER'S BLESSING
SS-1
A CASTLE GIVEN AS A PRIZE FOR WINNING THE CONTEST, TOWN WITH POPULATION 10,000 INCLUDED. ITS RESIDENTS WILL LIVE ACCORDING TO WHATEVER LAWS AND COMMANDS YOU ISSUE.
"RULER'S BLESSING."
THE PRIZE FOR THE HIGH SCORER.
...
HEH HEH.
LET ME WARN YOU...
THERE ARE NO CLUES ABOUT GING IN THE CASTLE OR THE TOWN.
!

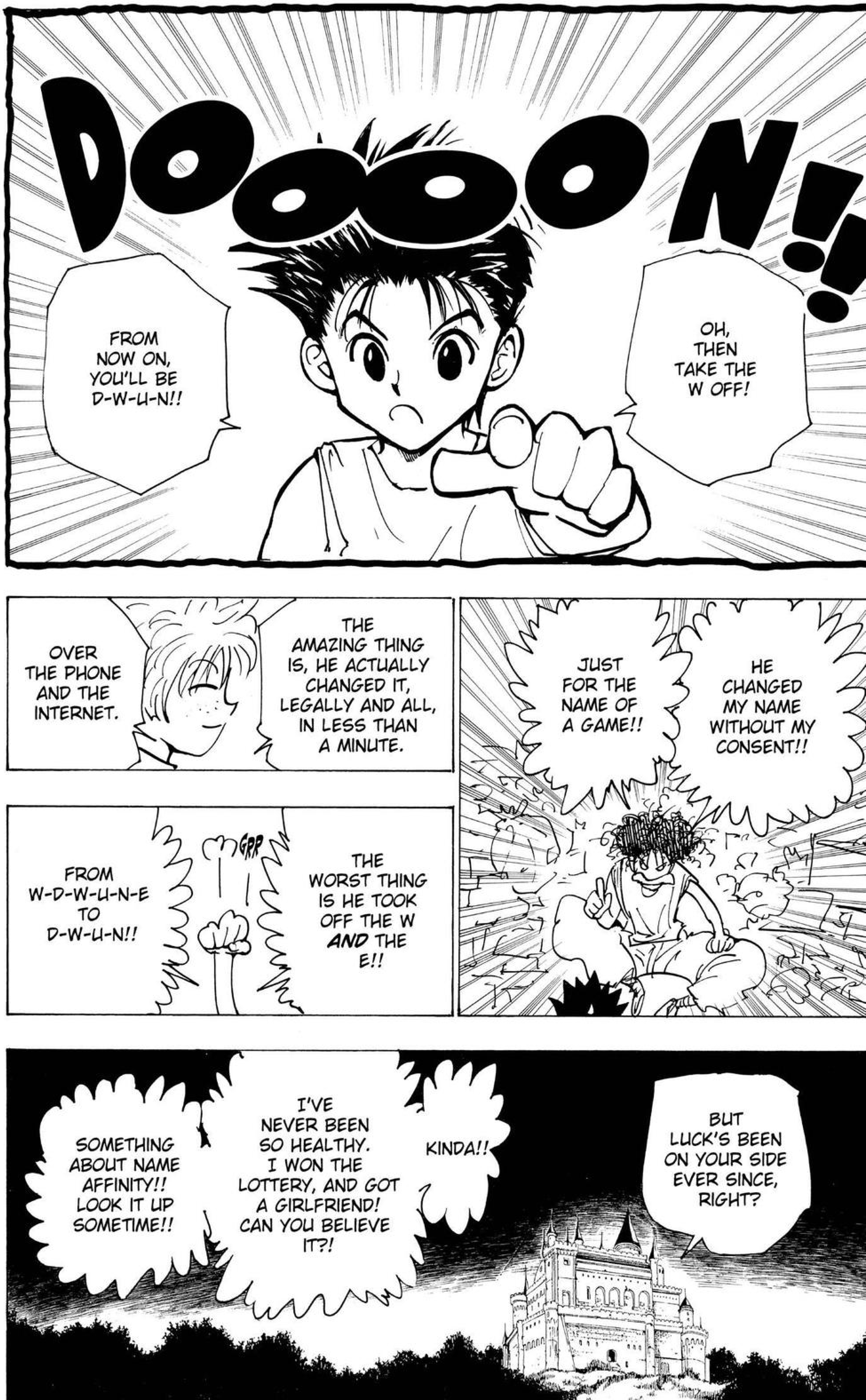

WAS THAT WHAT YOU WERE THINKING?!
HA! TOO BAD!! SO SAD!!
HEE HEE
…
OR WERE YOU EXPECTING GING TO BE THE RULER?
WELL?
NO, I WASN'T!!
I WASN'T ASSUMING THAT HE'D BE ON THE ISLAND.
OH, GOOD FOR YOU!
BECAUSE HE'S NOT.
DWUN, LET'S MOVE ON…
SKRITCH
OH YEAH.
NOW YOU'VE GOT ALL 100 CARDS.
WHICH TRIGGERS ANOTHER EVENT!
WHERE'D I PUT THAT THING?
OH HERE IT IS!

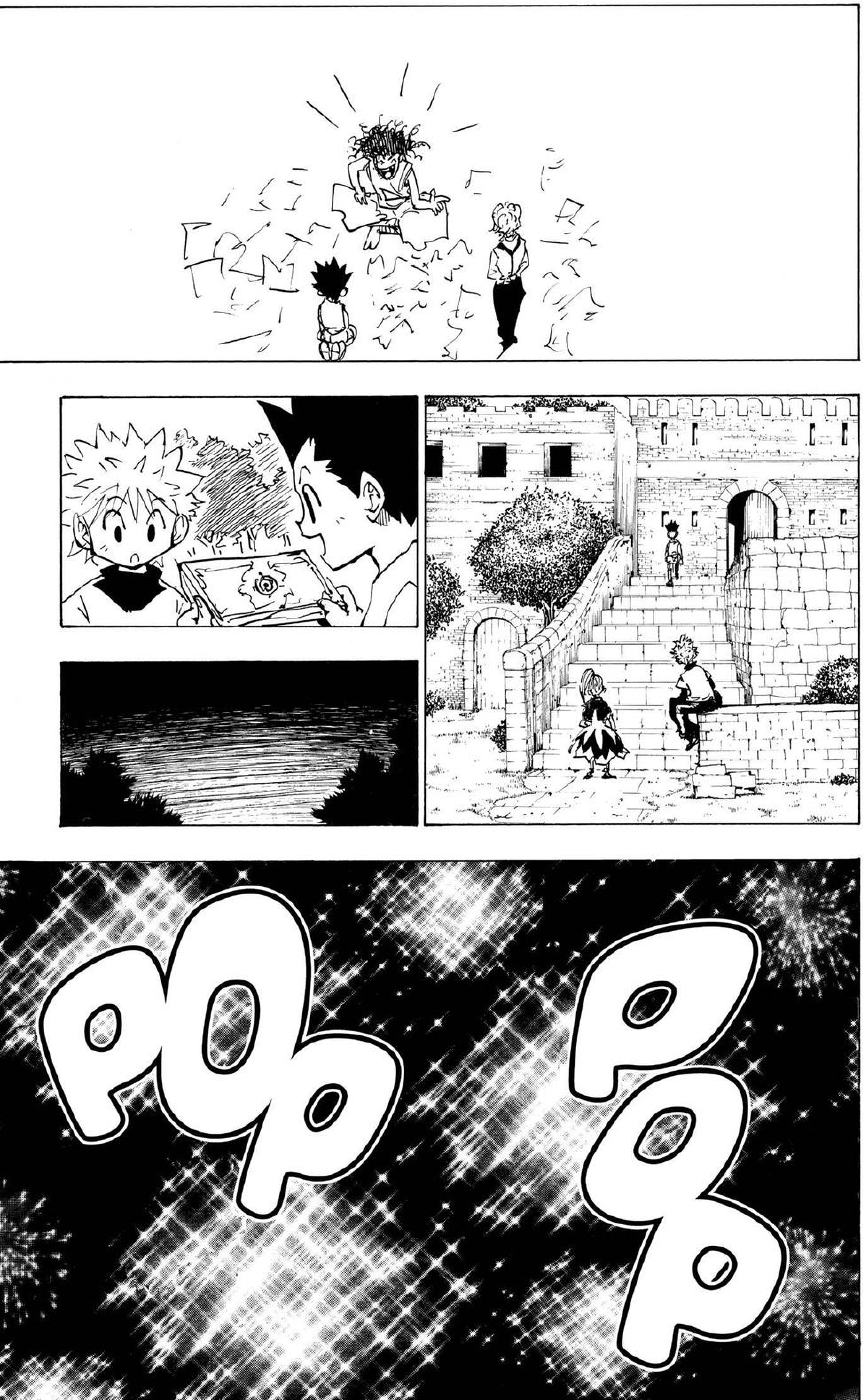

WHAT IS IT...?
OPEN IT.
!
YOU CAN PUT THREE SPECIFIED SLOT CARDS IN THERE.
THE CARDS IN THAT BINDER CAN BE TAKEN BACK AND USED OUTSIDE THE GAME.
HOWEVER, YOU CANNOT PUT IN MULTIPLE COPIES OF THE SAME CARD.
THEY HAVE TO BE THREE UNIQUE CARDS FROM YOUR OWN BINDER!
NOW THEN...
WE'VE COME TO THE END OF THE GAME.

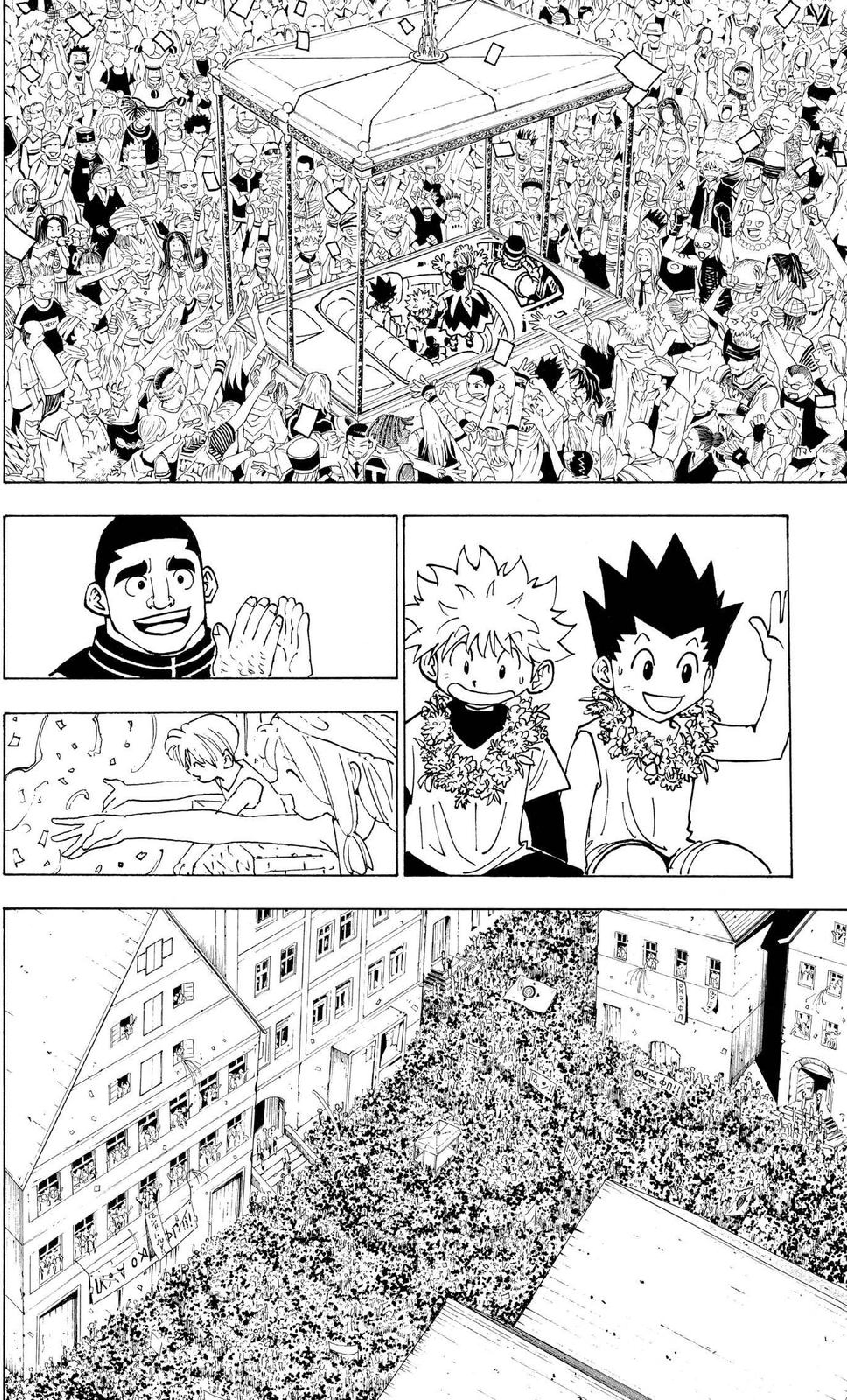

WHICH ENDING DO YOU WANT?
THE ONE FOR YOU ONLY, OR THE GENERIC ONE?
...
FOR ME?
YEAH.
WHICH WOULD YOU PICK?
...
...
HMM, I'LL GO WITH THE GENERIC ONE.
HM.
AND WHY'S THAT?
I DIDN'T CLEAR THE GAME ON MY OWN. I HAD HELP.
I WANT MY FRIENDS TO EXPERIENCE IT, TOO.
I SEE, VERY INTERESTING!
DWUN.
DON'T TEASE HIM.
I'M SORRY, GON. THERE'S NO ENDING MADE JUST FOR YOU.
WHAT?!
WHY WOULD HE LIE?!
BUT WE WERE GIVEN PERMISSION TO TELL YOU THINGS AFTER YOU CLEARED THE GAME.
THINGS ABOUT US...
!

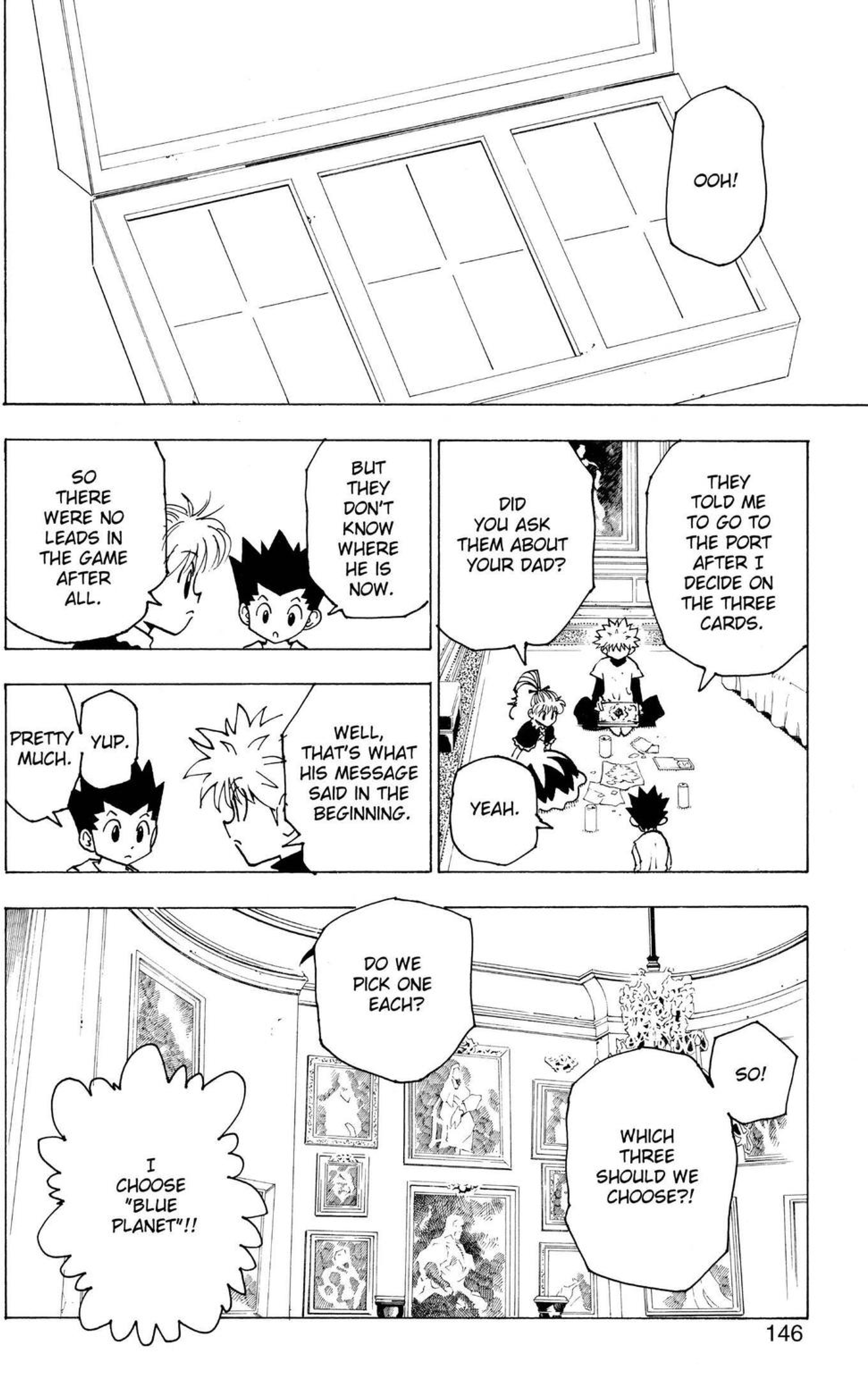

MY NAME IS LIST. MY FRIEND HERE IS DWUN.
AS YOU CAN PROBABLY TELL, WE'RE YOUR DAD'S PALS.
WE MADE THIS GAME WITH 11 OF OUR FRIENDS.
G.I
"GREED ISLAND" WAS NAMED WITH ALL OF THE INITIALS OF OUR FIRST NAMES.
YOUR FATHER WAS THE LEAD DESIGNER, SO WE WANTED A WORD THAT STARTED WITH G.
SO WE WENT WITH "GREED."
GREED ISLAND
HAVE YOU MET RAZOR?
YEAH.
HE'S THE R IN "GREED."
THE WOMAN WHO GREETED YOU IN THE BEGINNING AND THE ONE AT THE EXIT PORT ARE TWINS.
ELENA AND ETA. BOTH E'S.

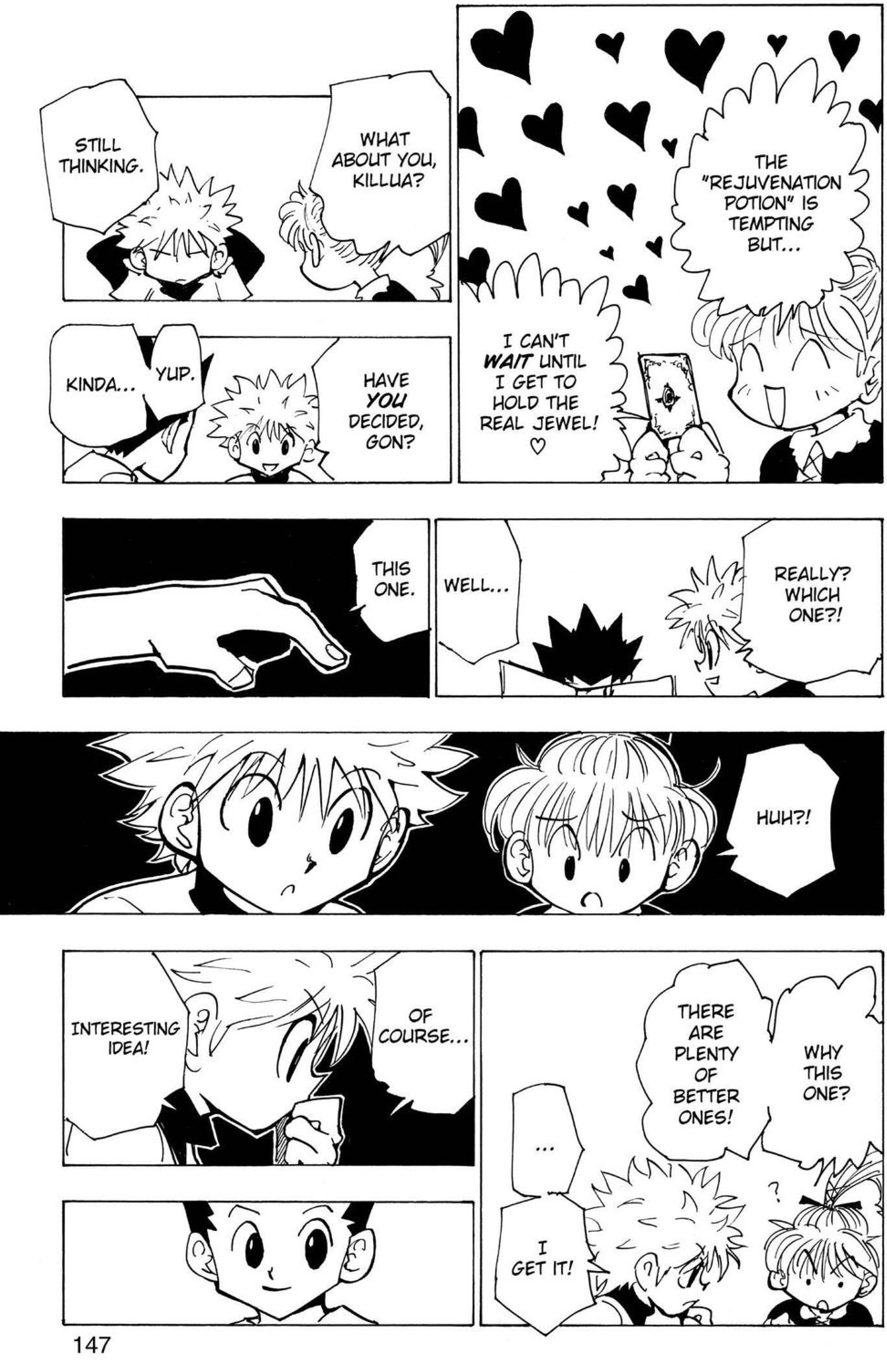

THERE WILL NOW BE A PARADE AND A PARTY TO CELEBRATE.
YOU CAN GO TO THE PORT AFTERWARDS.
YOU WILL CHOOSE THE THREE CARDS THERE, AND THEN THE GAME WILL END.
WE CAN CHAT UNTIL THEN!
WANNA HEAR ABOUT GING? I KNOW YOU DO!!
YEAH!
WELL, LISTEN UP!
HE IS SUCH...
...AN UNBELIEVABLE ***JERK!!***
HOW DO YOU THINK YOU'D SPELL MY NAME?!
HUH? WITH A D?
SIGH, I GUESS MOST PEOPLE WOULD.
WELL, IT ***WAS*** WITH A SILENT W!! "W-D-W-U-N-E" !!
BUT MY PALS ASSUMED IT WAS WITH A D!!
SO I TOLD THEM WHEN WE WERE DECIDING ON A NAME THAT IT WAS SPELLED WITH A W!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK GING SAID?!

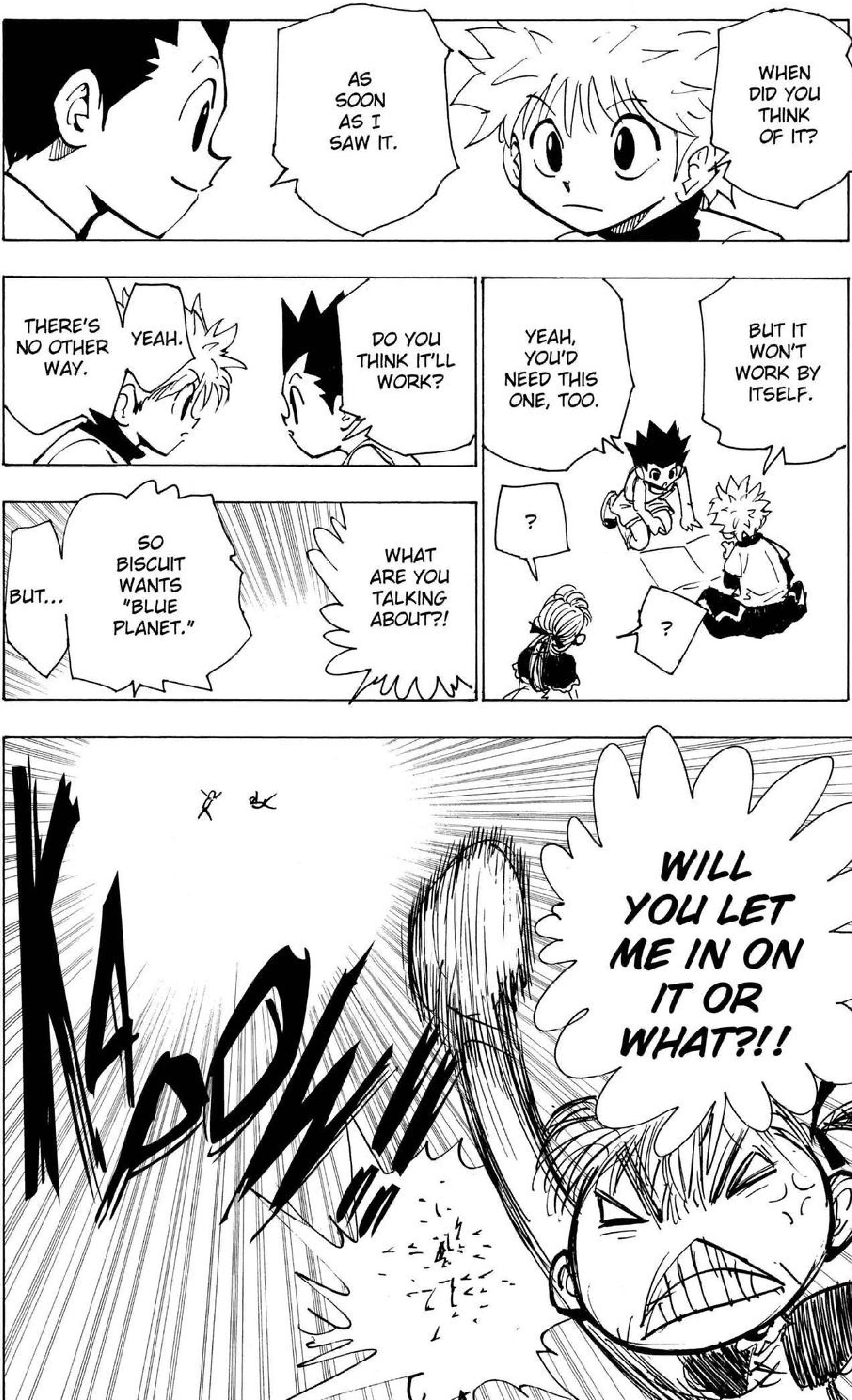

DOOOON!!
OH, THEN TAKE THE W OFF!
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL BE D-W-U-N!!
HE CHANGED MY NAME WITHOUT MY CONSENT!!
JUST FOR THE NAME OF A GAME!!
THE AMAZING THING IS, HE ACTUALLY CHANGED IT, LEGALLY AND ALL, IN LESS THAN A MINUTE.
OVER THE PHONE AND THE INTERNET.
THE WORST THING IS HE TOOK OFF THE W *AND* THE E!!
GRR
FROM W-D-W-U-N-E TO D-W-U-N!!
BUT LUCK'S BEEN ON YOUR SIDE EVER SINCE, RIGHT?
KINDA!!
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HEALTHY. I WON THE LOTTERY, AND GOT A GIRLFRIEND! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
SOMETHING ABOUT NAME AFFINITY!! LOOK IT UP SOMETIME!!


POP
POP

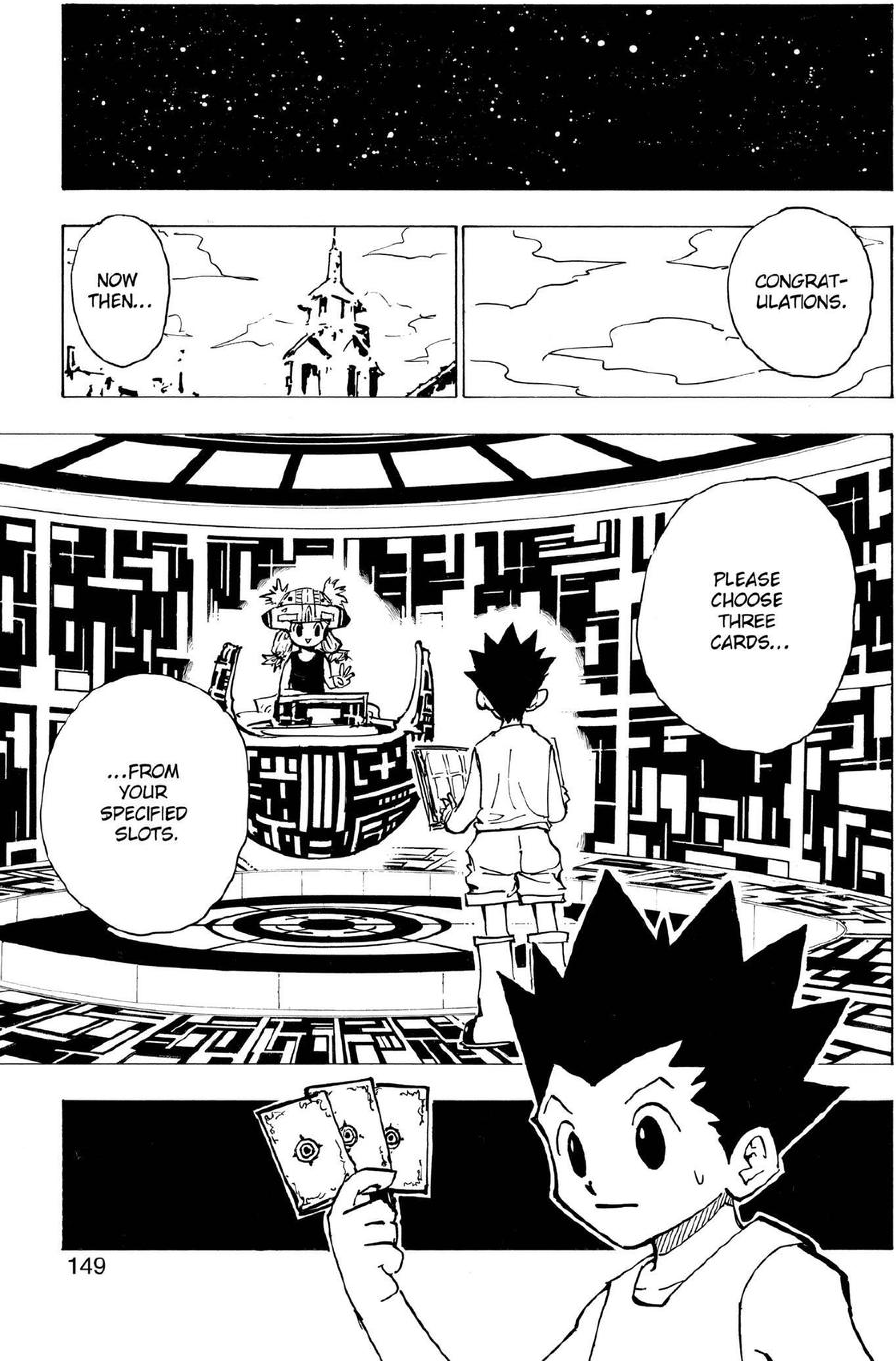


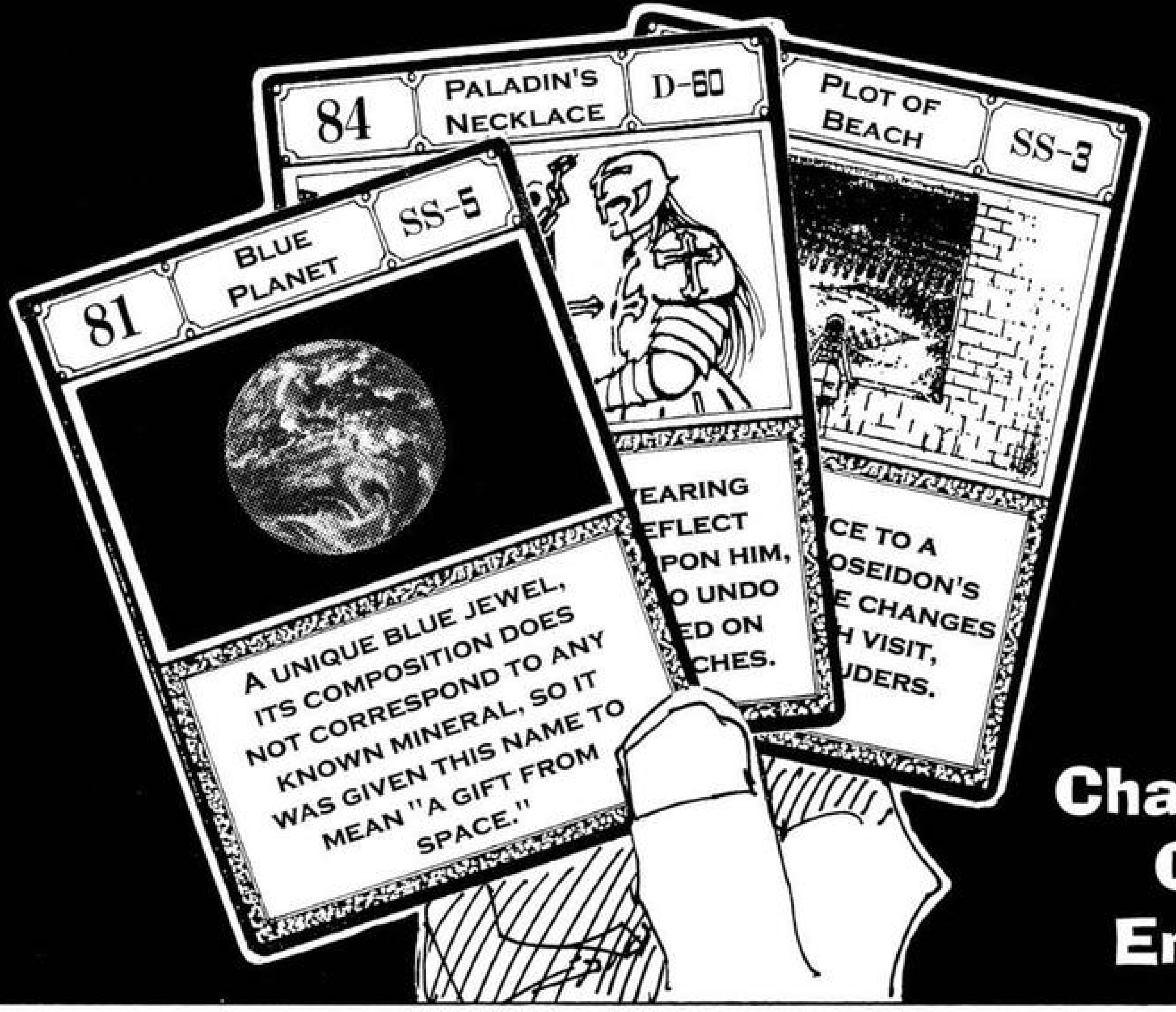

OOH!
DID YOU ASK THEM ABOUT YOUR DAD?
YEAH.
THEY TOLD ME TO GO TO THE PORT AFTER I DECIDE ON THE THREE CARDS.
BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW.
SO THERE WERE NO LEADS IN THE GAME AFTER ALL.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT HIS MESSAGE SAID IN THE BEGINNING.
YUP.
PRETTY MUCH.
SO!
WHICH THREE SHOULD WE CHOOSE?!
DO WE PICK ONE EACH?
I CHOOSE "BLUE PLANET"!!


THE "REJUVENATION POTION" IS TEMPTING BUT...
I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL I GET TO HOLD THE REAL JEWEL! ♡
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KILLUA?
STILL THINKING.
HAVE YOU DECIDED, GON?
YUP.
KINDA...
REALLY? WHICH ONE?!
WELL...
THIS ONE.
HUH?!
WHY THIS ONE?
THERE ARE PLENTY OF BETTER ONES!
?
...
I GET IT!
OF COURSE...
INTERESTING IDEA!

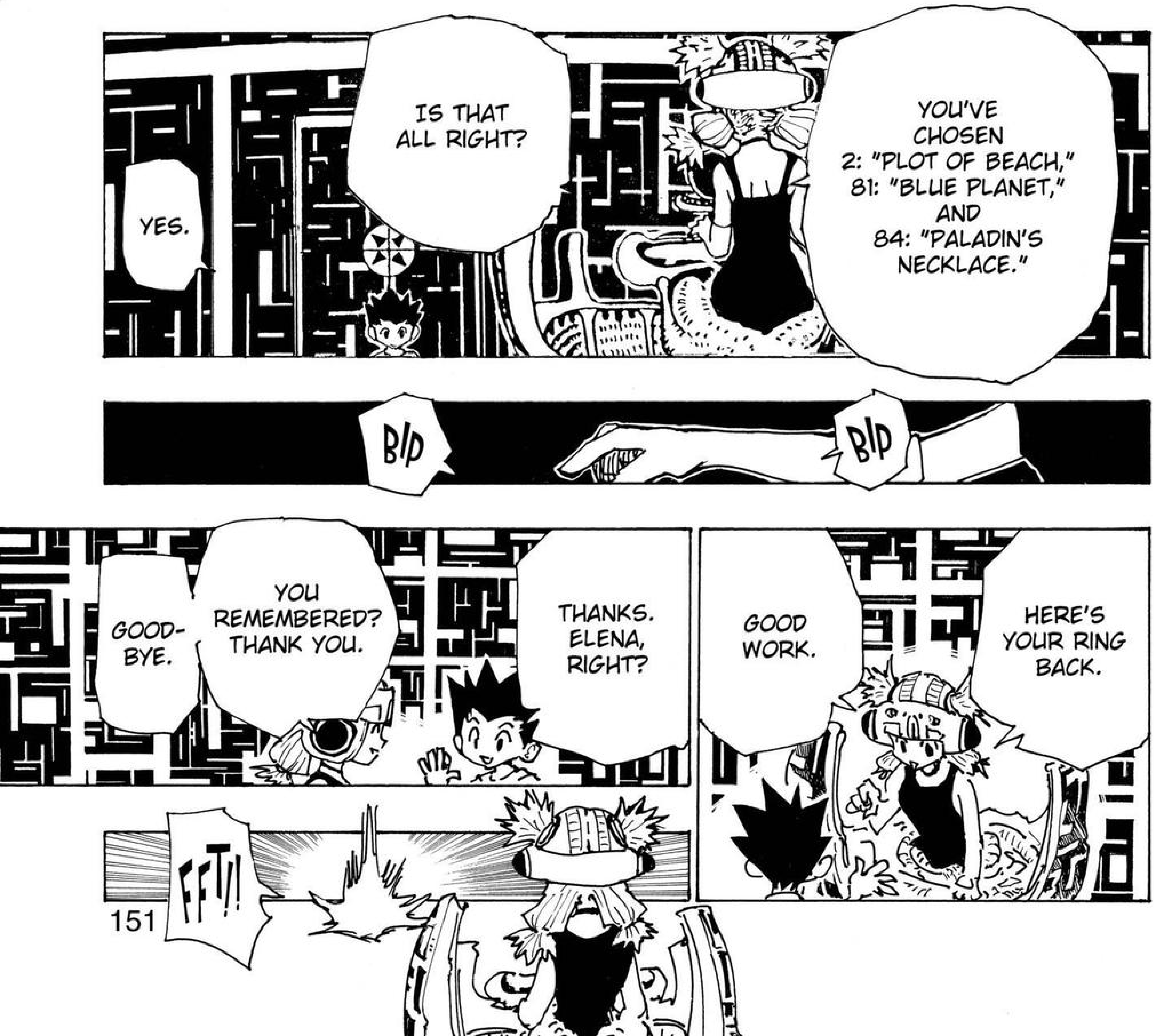

WHEN DID YOU THINK OF IT?
AS SOON AS I SAW IT.
BUT IT WON'T WORK BY ITSELF.
YEAH, YOU'D NEED THIS ONE, TOO.
?
?
DO YOU THINK IT'LL WORK?
YEAH.
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
SO BISCUIT WANTS "BLUE PLANET."
BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WILL YOU LET ME IN ON IT OR WHAT?!!
KABOOM!!

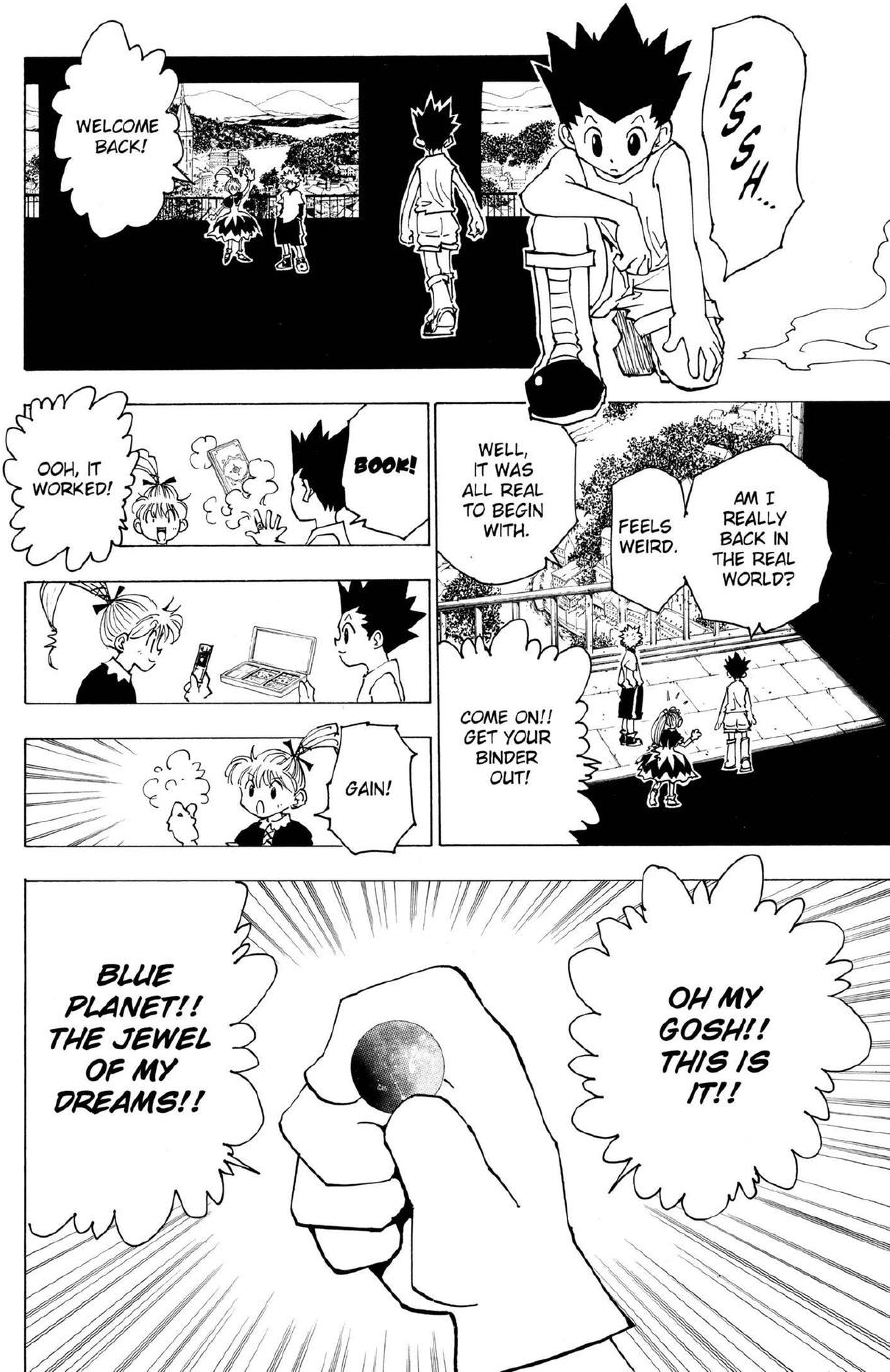
READ THIS WAY

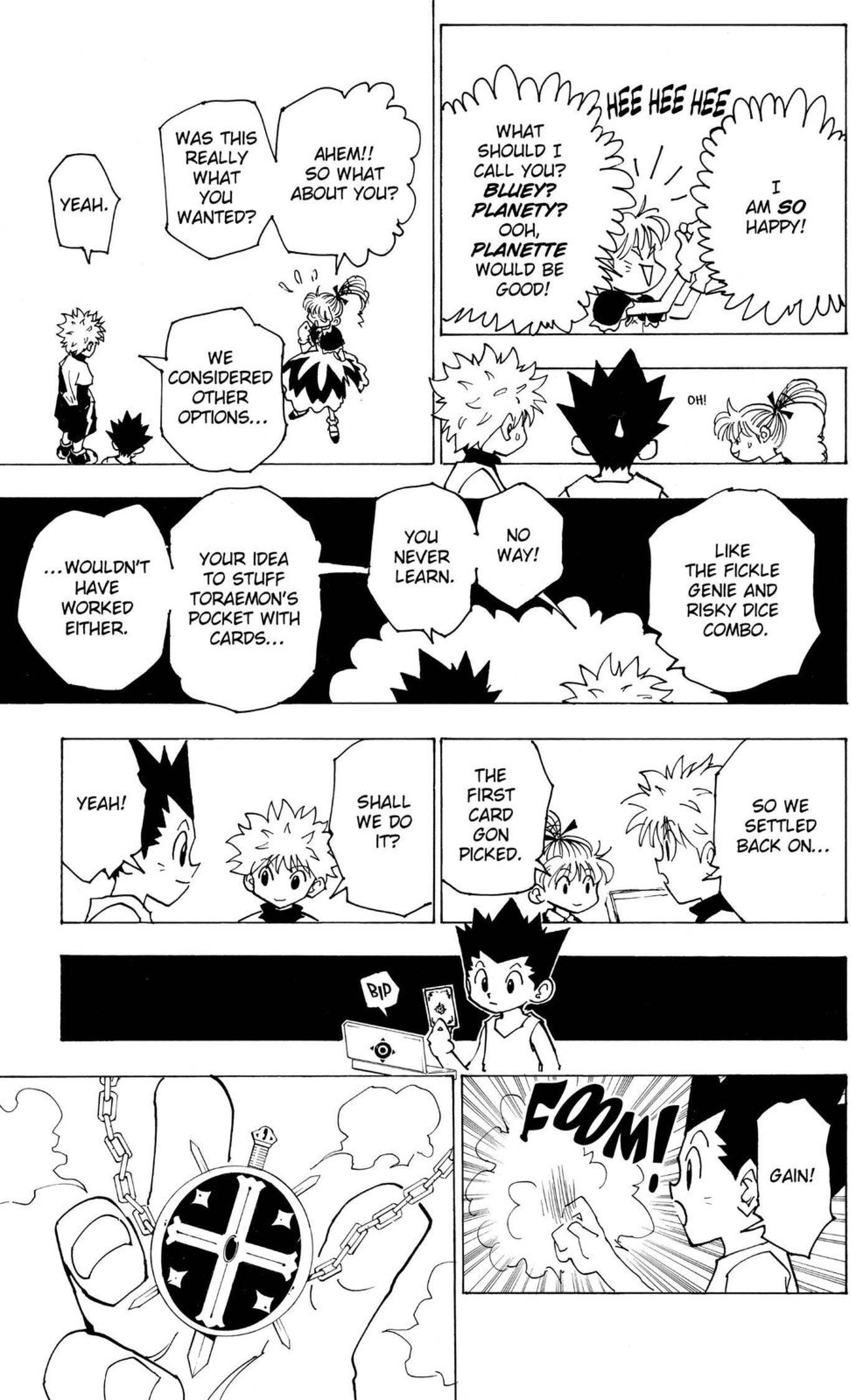

CONGRATULATIONS.
NOW THEN...
PLEASE CHOOSE THREE CARDS...
...FROM YOUR SPECIFIED SLOTS.

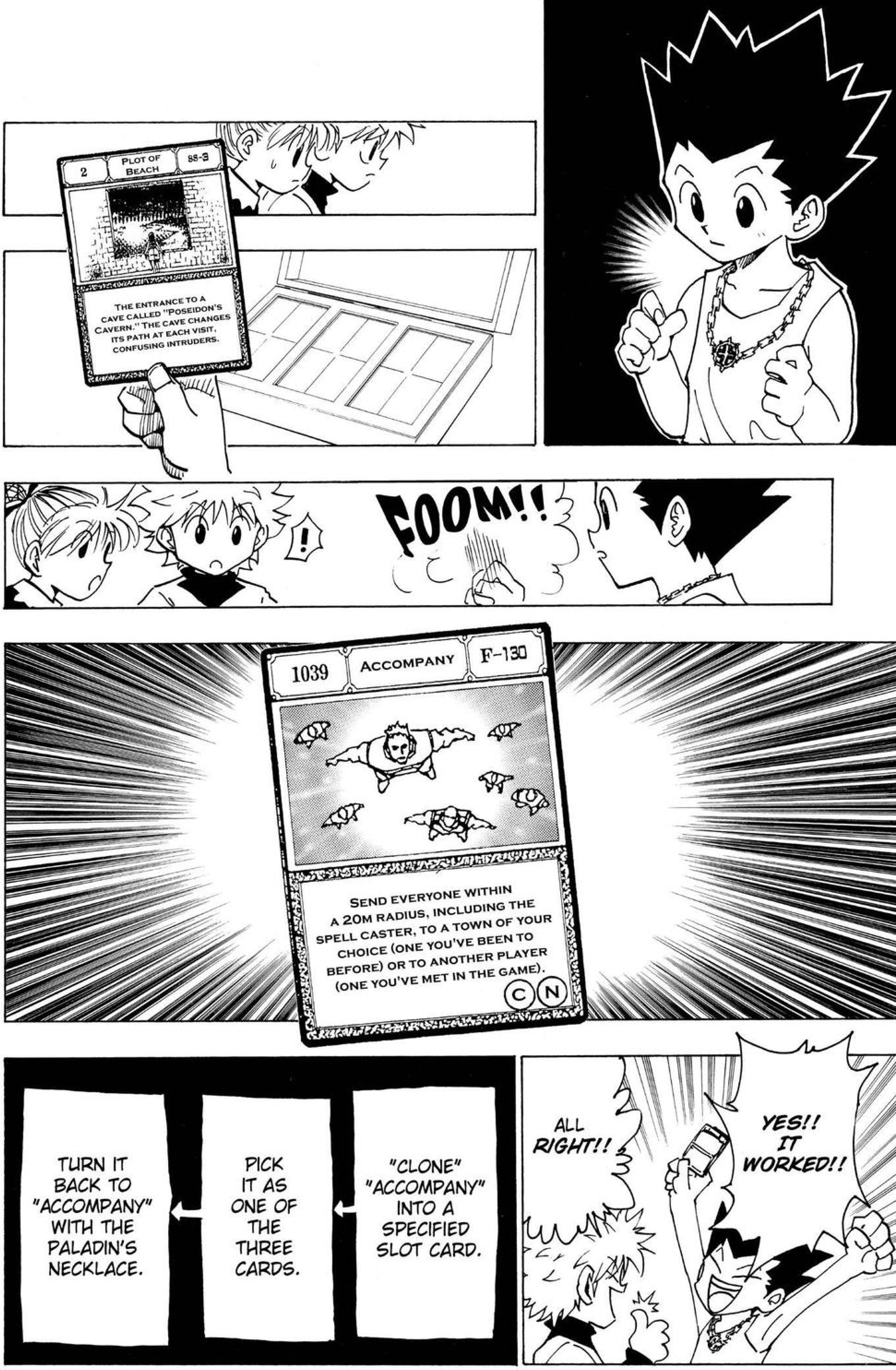

84
PALADIN'S NECKLACE
D-60
EARING
EFLECT
PON HIM,
O UNDO
ED ON
CHES.
PLOT OF BEACH
SS-3
CE TO A
OSEIDON'S
E CHANGES
H VISIT,
UDERS.
81
BLUE PLANET
SS-5
A UNIQUE BLUE JEWEL, ITS COMPOSITION DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO ANY KNOWN MINERAL, SO IT WAS GIVEN THIS NAME TO MEAN "A GIFT FROM SPACE."

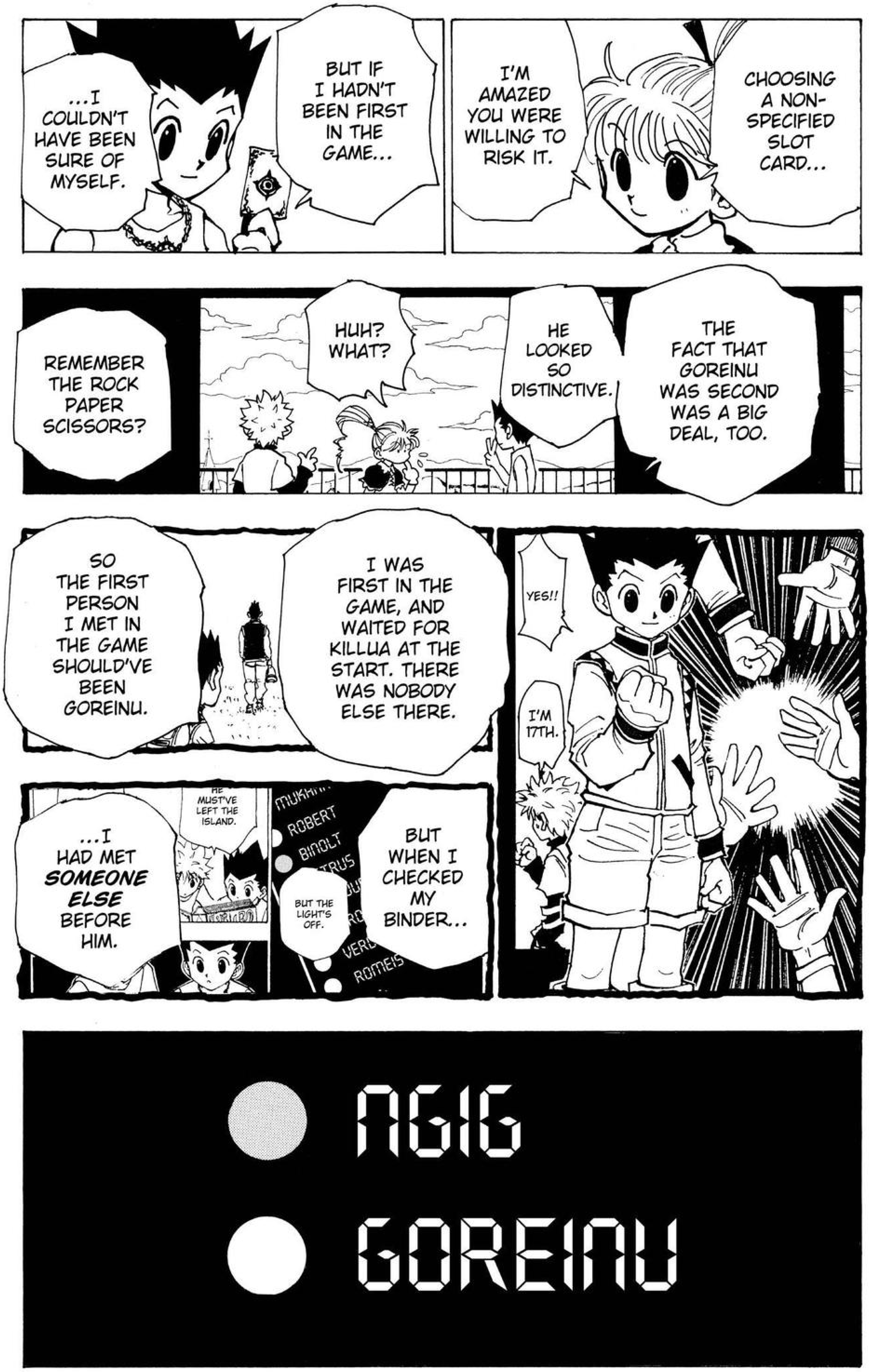
Chapter 185: Chance Encounter

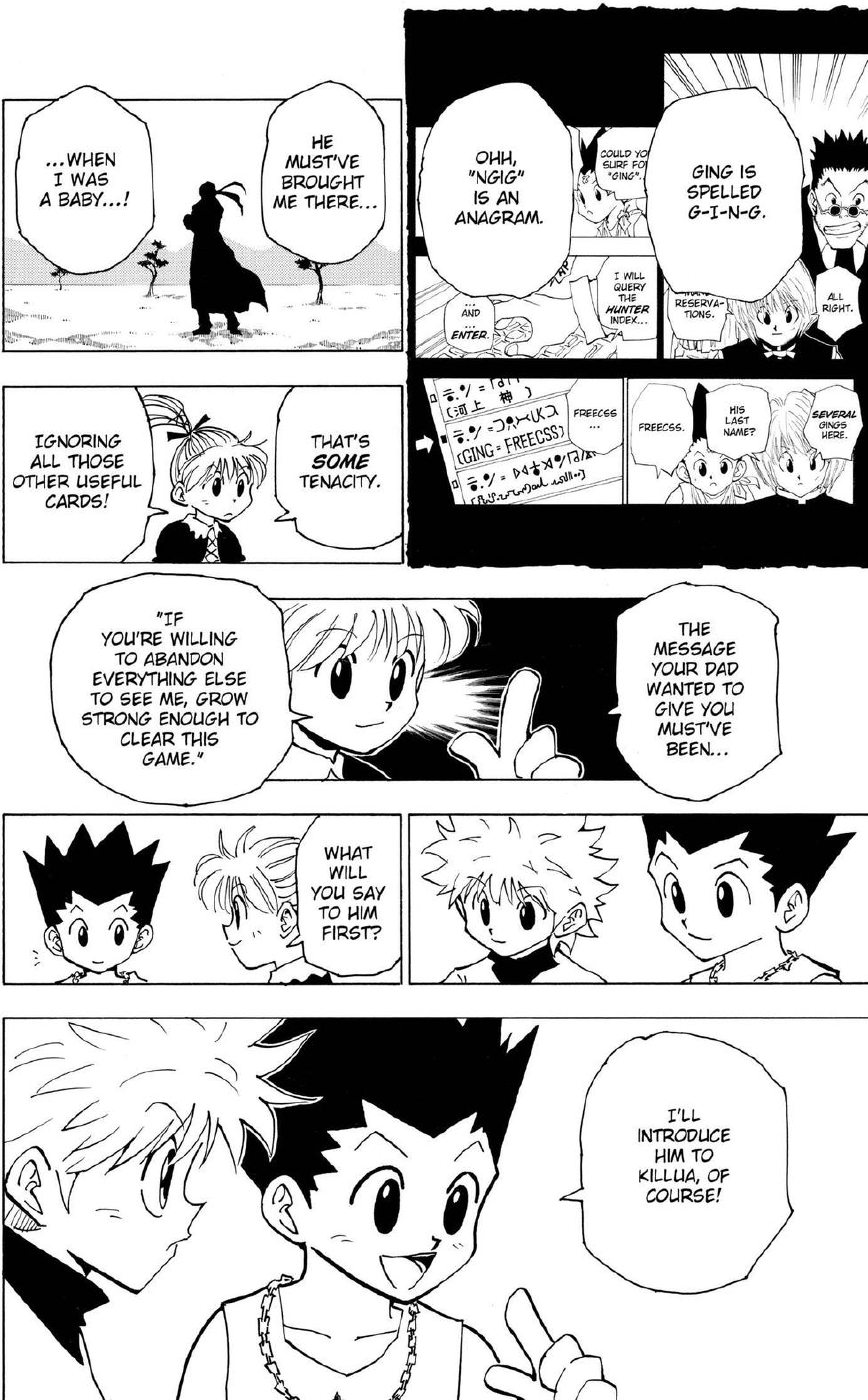

YOU'VE CHOSEN 2: "PLOT OF BEACH," 81: "BLUE PLANET," AND 84: "PALADIN'S NECKLACE."
IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
YES.
BIP
BIP
HERE'S YOUR RING BACK.
GOOD WORK.
THANKS. ELENA, RIGHT?
YOU REMEMBERED? THANK YOU.
GOOD-BYE.
FFT!!

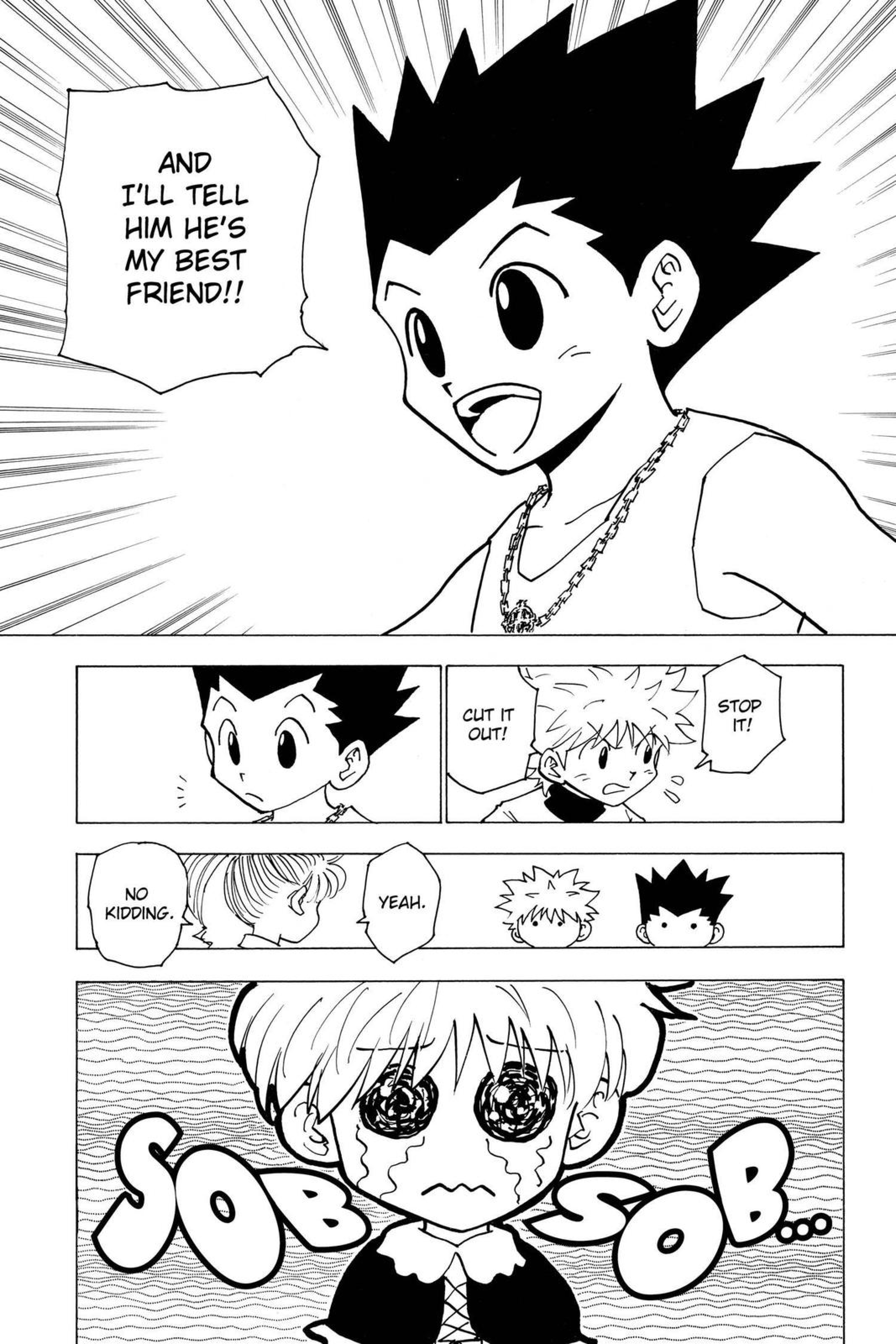

FSSH...
WELCOME BACK!
AM I REALLY BACK IN THE REAL WORLD?
FEELS WEIRD.
WELL, IT WAS ALL REAL TO BEGIN WITH.
COME ON!! GET YOUR BINDER OUT!
BOOK!
OOH, IT WORKED!
GAIN!
OH MY GOSH!! THIS IS IT!!
BLUE PLANET!! THE JEWEL OF MY DREAMS!!

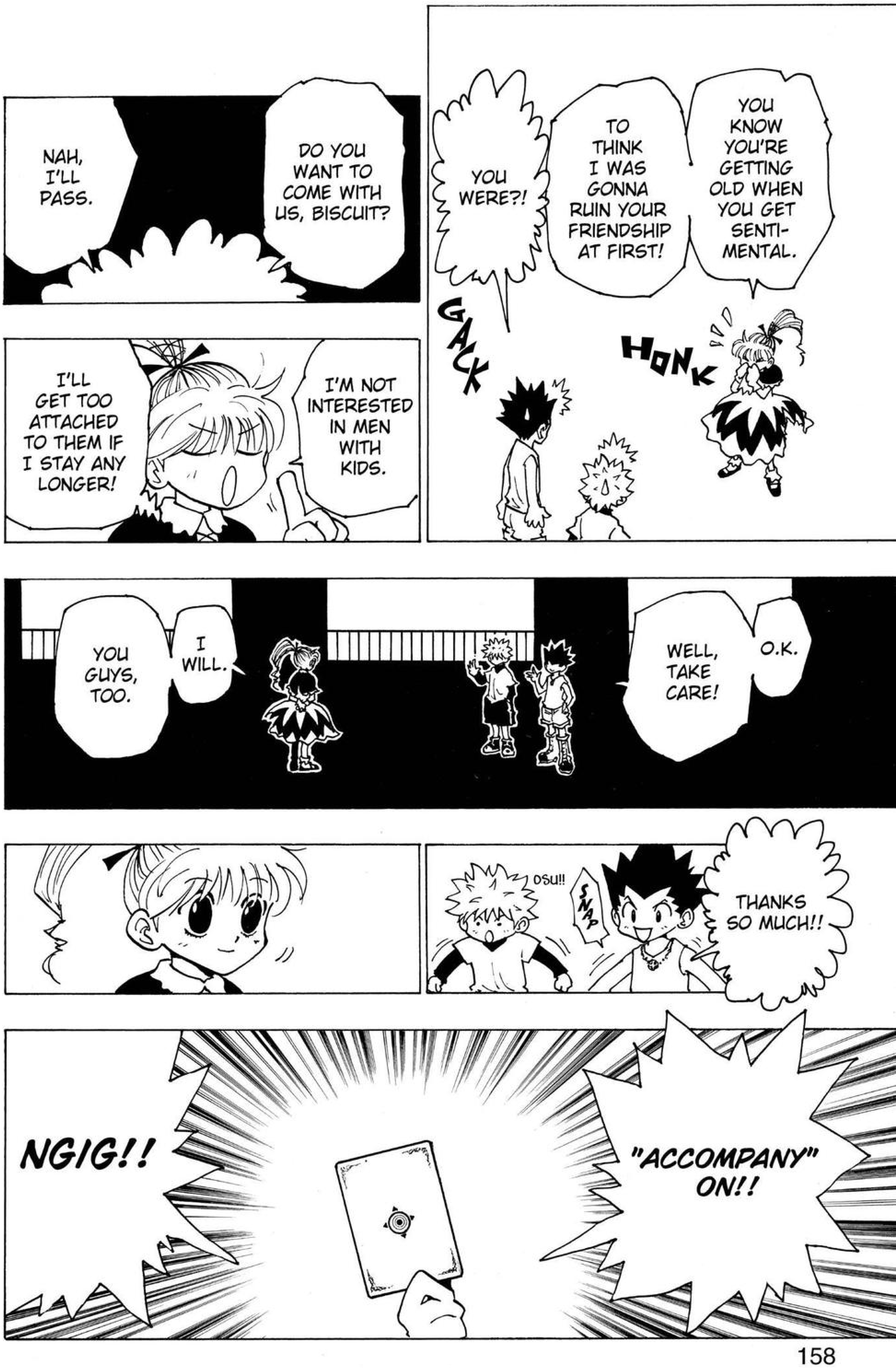

HEE HEE HEE
I AM **SO** HAPPY!
WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU? **BLUEY? PLANETY?** OOH, **PLANETTE** WOULD BE GOOD!
OH!
AHEM!! SO WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WAS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU WANTED?
YEAH.
WE CONSIDERED OTHER OPTIONS...
LIKE THE FICKLE GENIE AND RISKY DICE COMBO.
NO WAY!
YOU NEVER LEARN.
YOUR IDEA TO STUFF TORAEMON'S POCKET WITH CARDS...
...WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED EITHER.
SO WE SETTLED BACK ON...
THE FIRST CARD GON PICKED.
SHALL WE DO IT?
YEAH!
BIP
FOOM!
GAIN!

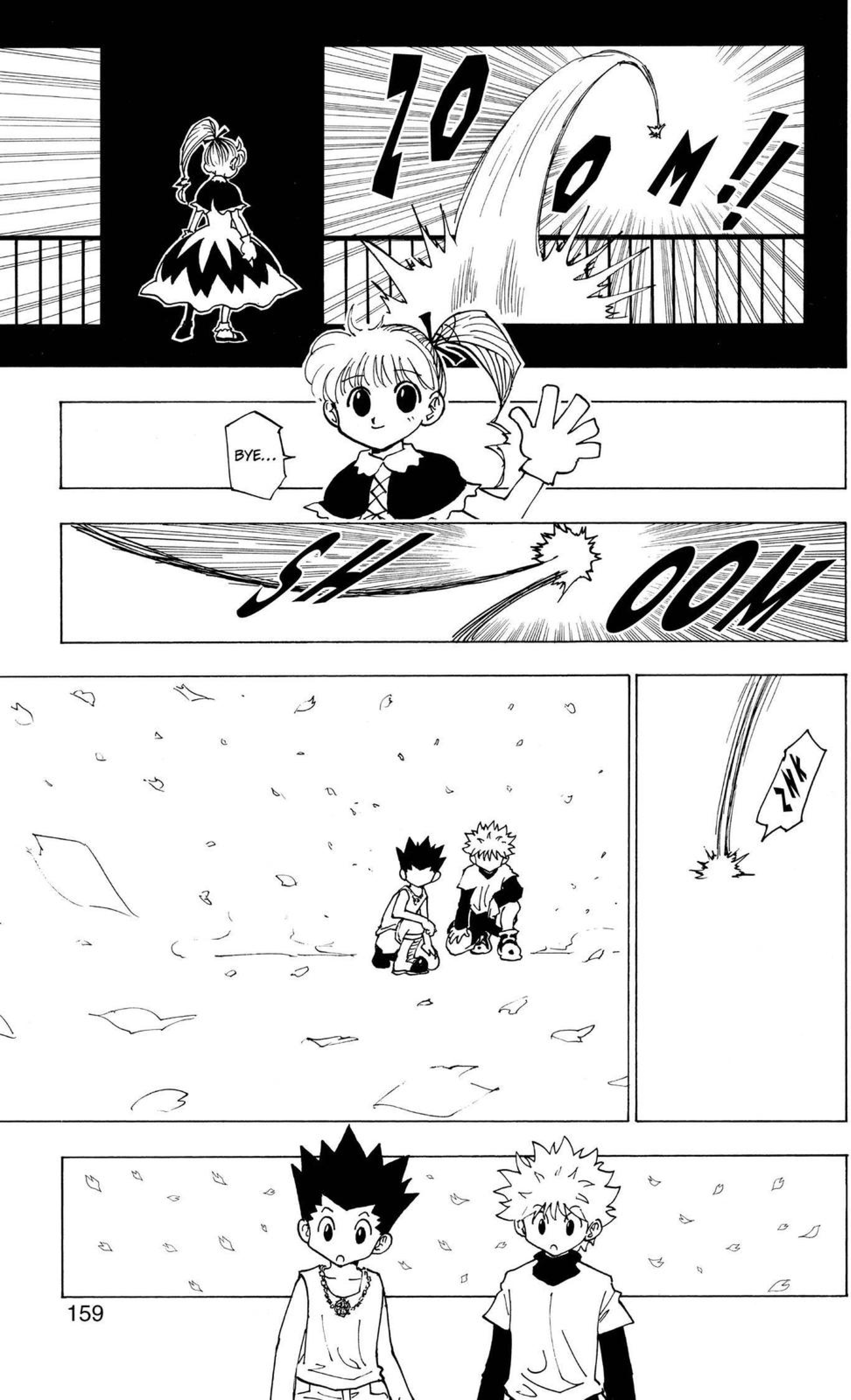

2
PLOT OF BEACH
SS-3
THE ENTRANCE TO A CAVE CALLED "POSEIDON'S CAVERN." THE CAVE CHANGES ITS PATH AT EACH VISIT, CONFUSING INTRUDERS.
FOOM!!
!
1039
ACCOMPANY
F-130
SEND EVERYONE WITHIN A 20M RADIUS, INCLUDING THE SPELL CASTER, TO A TOWN OF YOUR CHOICE (ONE YOU'VE BEEN TO BEFORE) OR TO ANOTHER PLAYER (ONE YOU'VE MET IN THE GAME).
C N
YES!! IT WORKED!!
ALL RIGHT!!
"CLONE" "ACCOMPANY" INTO A SPECIFIED SLOT CARD.
PICK IT AS ONE OF THE THREE CARDS.
TURN IT BACK TO "ACCOMPANY" WITH THE PALADIN'S NECKLACE.

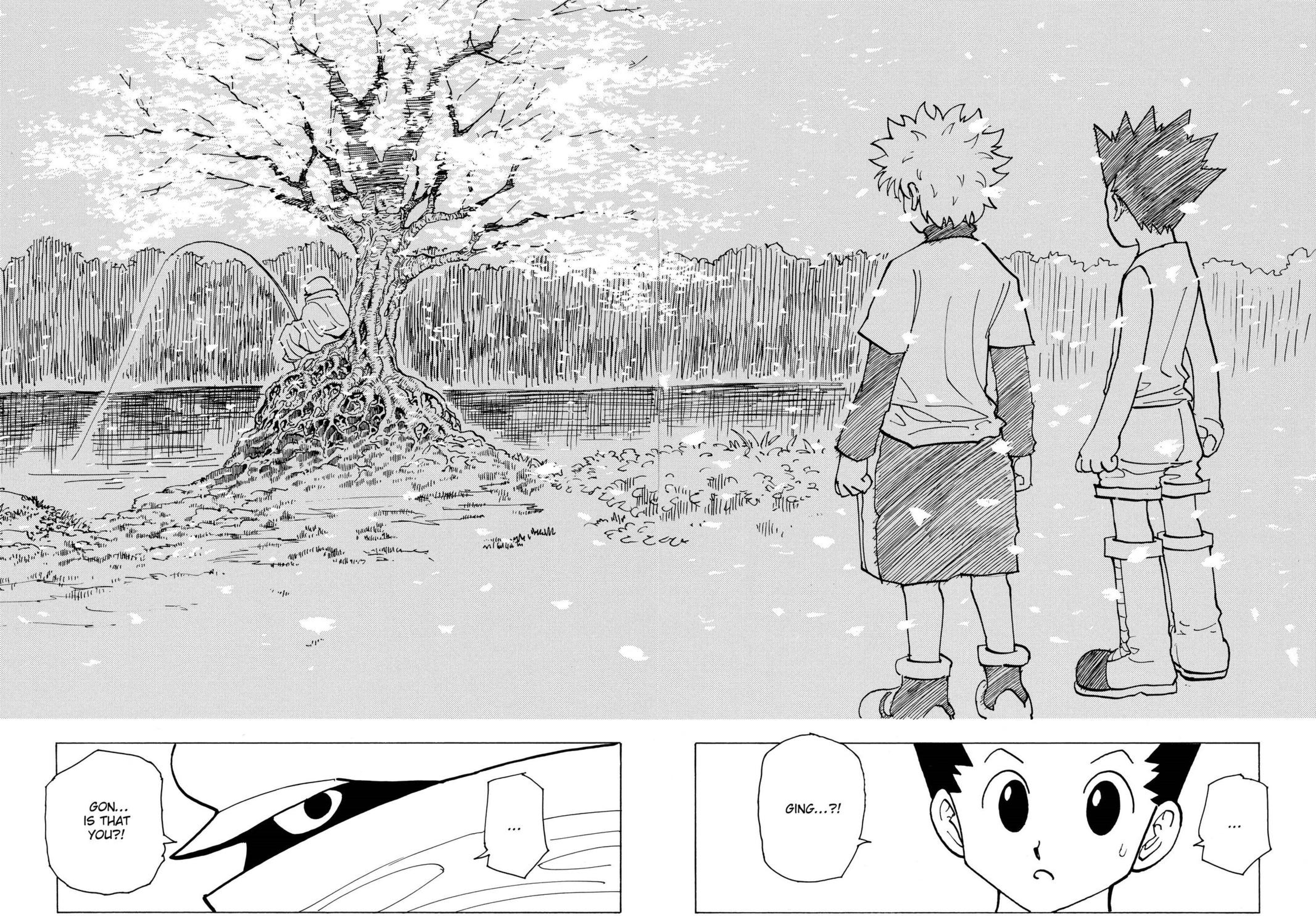

CHOOSING A NON-SPECIFIED SLOT CARD...
I'M AMAZED YOU WERE WILLING TO RISK IT.
BUT IF I HADN'T BEEN FIRST IN THE GAME...
...I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SURE OF MYSELF.
THE FACT THAT GOREINU WAS SECOND WAS A BIG DEAL, TOO.
HE LOOKED SO DISTINCTIVE.
HUH? WHAT?
REMEMBER THE ROCK PAPER SCISSORS?
YES!!
I'M 17TH.
I WAS FIRST IN THE GAME, AND WAITED FOR KILLUA AT THE START. THERE WAS NOBODY ELSE THERE.
SO THE FIRST PERSON I MET IN THE GAME SHOULD'VE BEEN GOREINU.
BUT WHEN I CHECKED MY BINDER..
BUT THE LIGHT'S OFF.
ROBERT
BINOLT
ROMEIS
HE MUST'VE LEFT THE ISLAND.
...I HAD MET ***SOMEONE ELSE*** BEFORE HIM.
NGIG
GOREINU

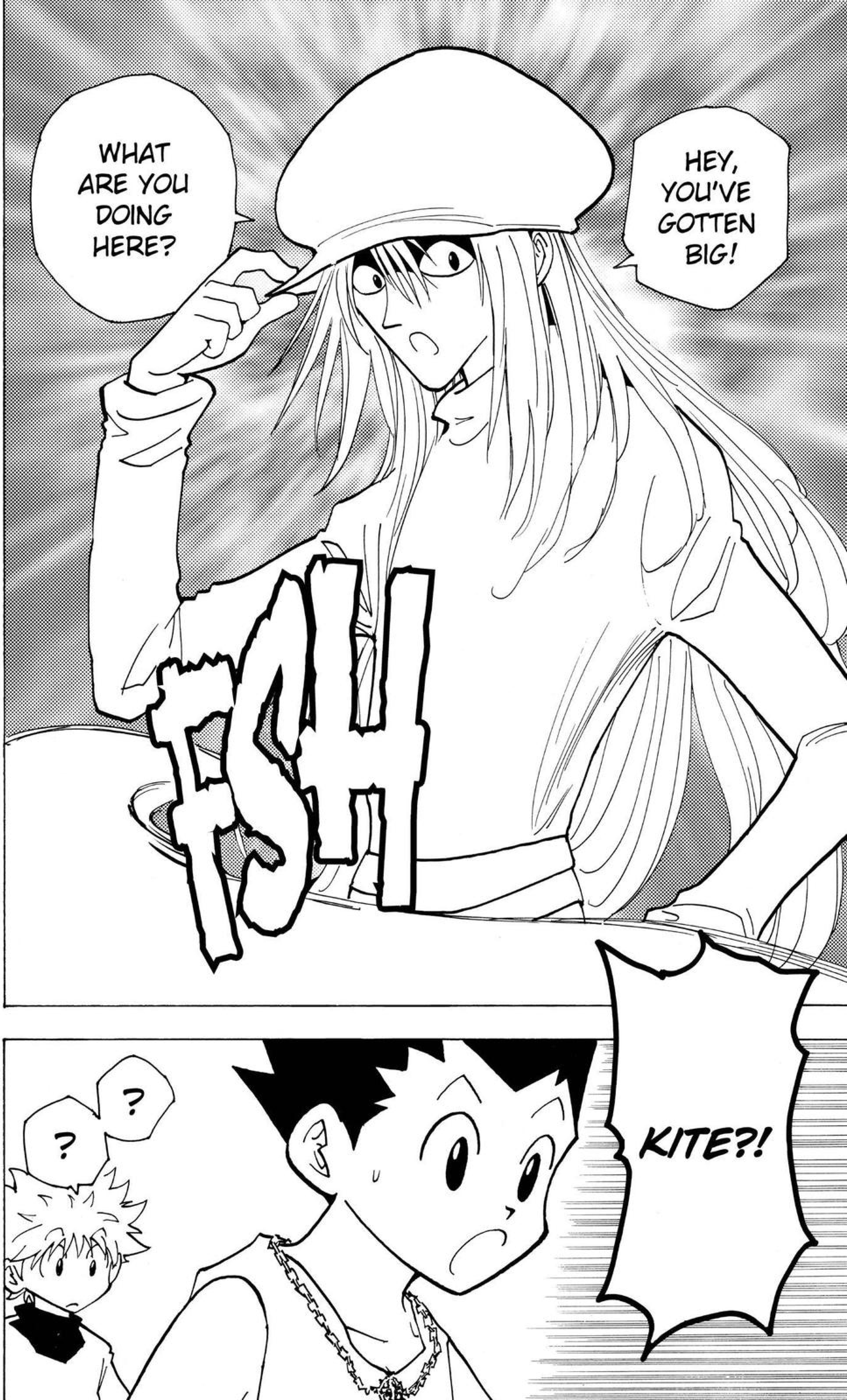

GING IS SPELLED G-I-N-G.
ALL RIGHT.
RESERVA-TIONS.
COULD YO SURF FO "GING"...
I WILL QUERY THE HUNTER INDEX...
... AND ... ENTER.
OHH, "NGIG" IS AN ANAGRAM.
SEVERAL GINGS HERE.
HIS LAST NAME?
FREECSS.
FREECSS ...
〔河上 神 〕
〔GING = FREECSS〕
HE MUST'VE BROUGHT ME THERE...
...WHEN I WAS A BABY...!
THAT'S SOME TENACITY.
IGNORING ALL THOSE OTHER USEFUL CARDS!
THE MESSAGE YOUR DAD WANTED TO GIVE YOU MUST'VE BEEN...
"IF YOU'RE WILLING TO ABANDON EVERYTHING ELSE TO SEE ME, GROW STRONG ENOUGH TO CLEAR THIS GAME."
WHAT WILL YOU SAY TO HIM FIRST?
I'LL INTRODUCE HIM TO KILLUA, OF COURSE!

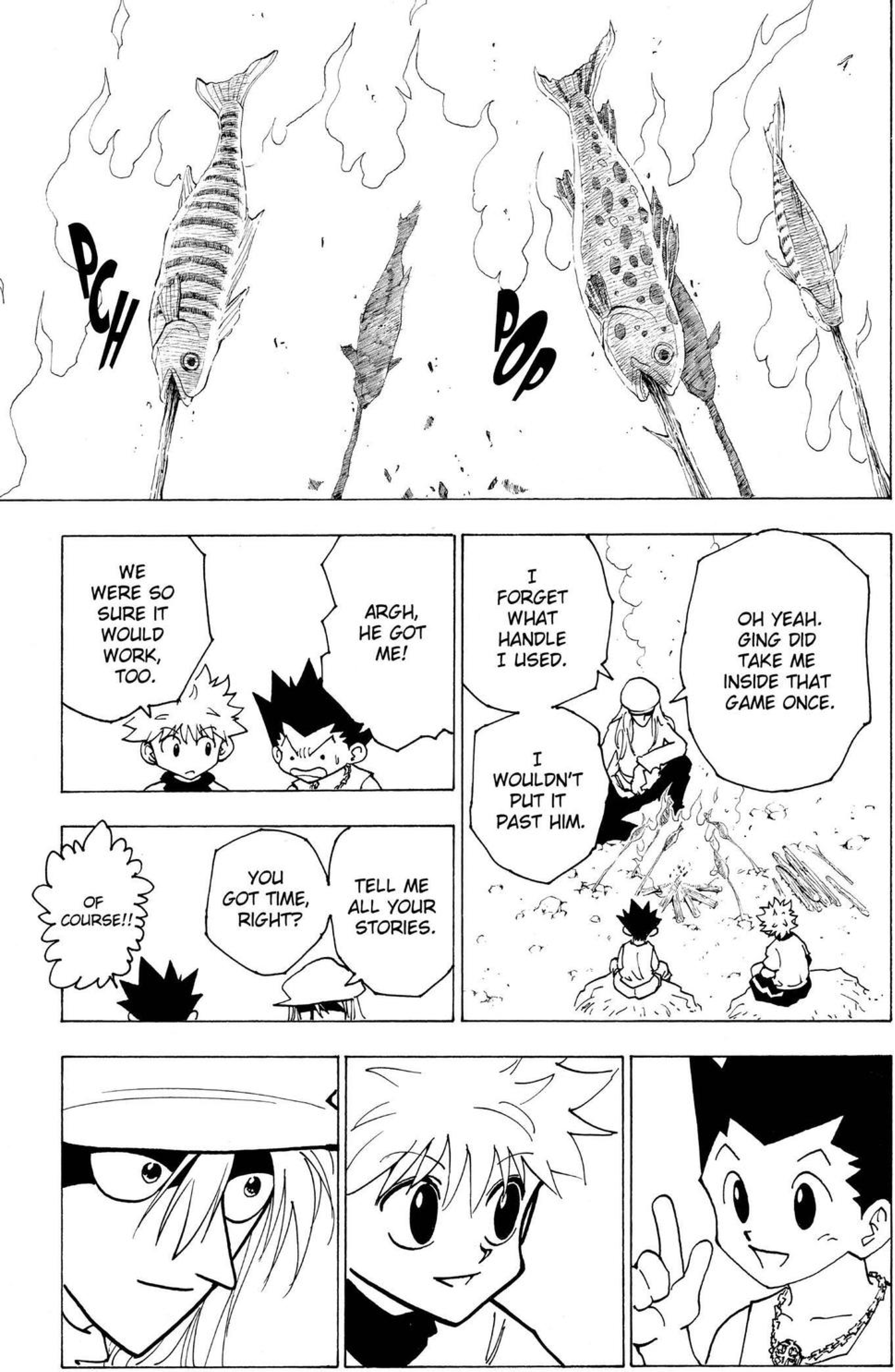

AND I'LL TELL HIM HE'S MY BEST FRIEND!!
STOP IT!
CUT IT OUT!
YEAH.
NO KIDDING.
SOB SOB...

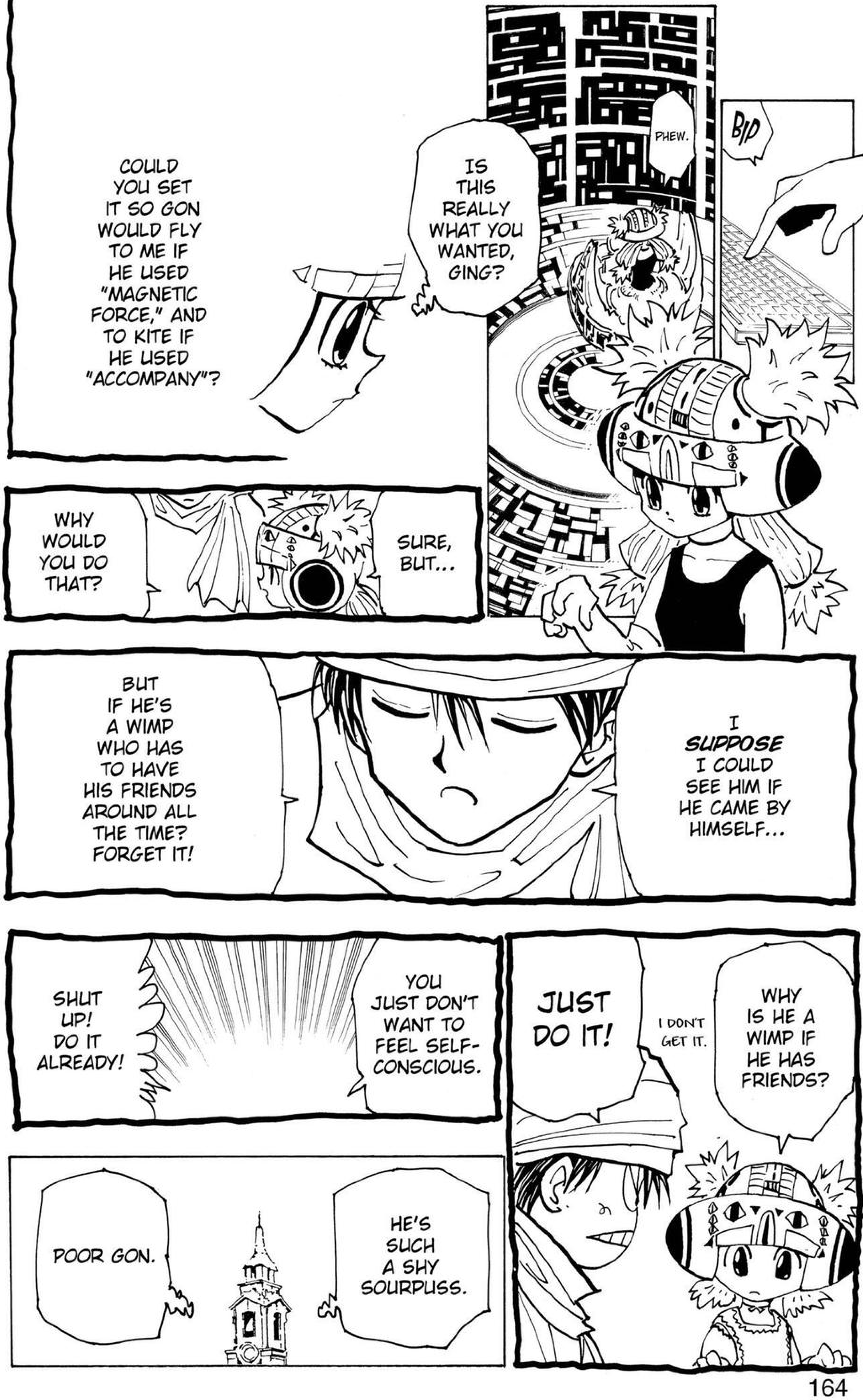

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN YOU GET SENTIMENTAL.
TO THINK I WAS GONNA RUIN YOUR FRIENDSHIP AT FIRST!
YOU WERE?!
HONK
GACK
DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH US, BISCUIT?
NAH, I'LL PASS.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN MEN WITH KIDS.
I'LL GET TOO ATTACHED TO THEM IF I STAY ANY LONGER!
O.K.
WELL, TAKE CARE!
I WILL.
YOU GUYS, TOO.
THANKS SO MUCH!!
SNAP
OSU!!
"ACCOMPANY" ON!!
NGIG!!

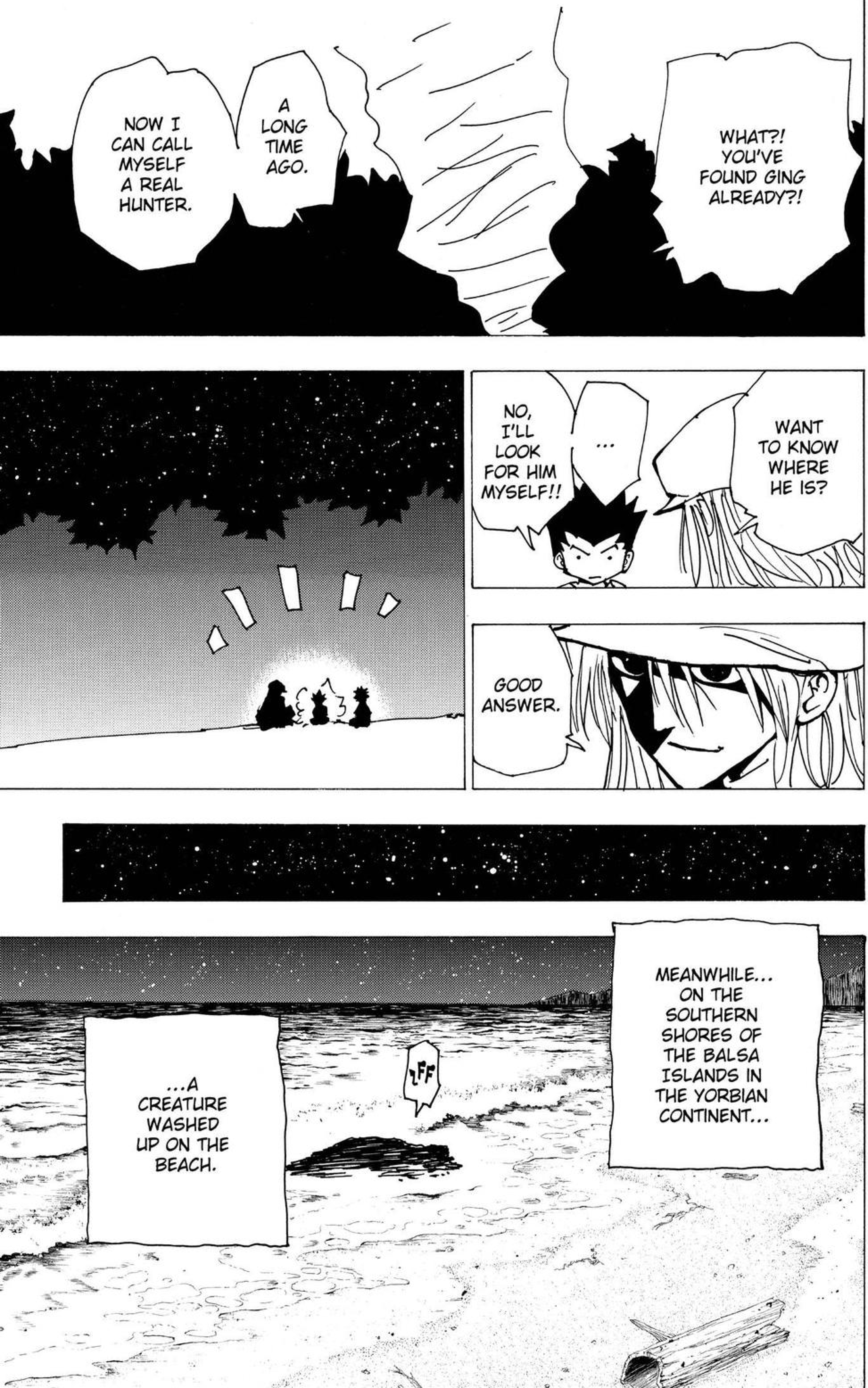

ZOOM!!
BYE...
SH-OOM
ZNK


…
GING…?!
…
GON… IS THAT YOU?!

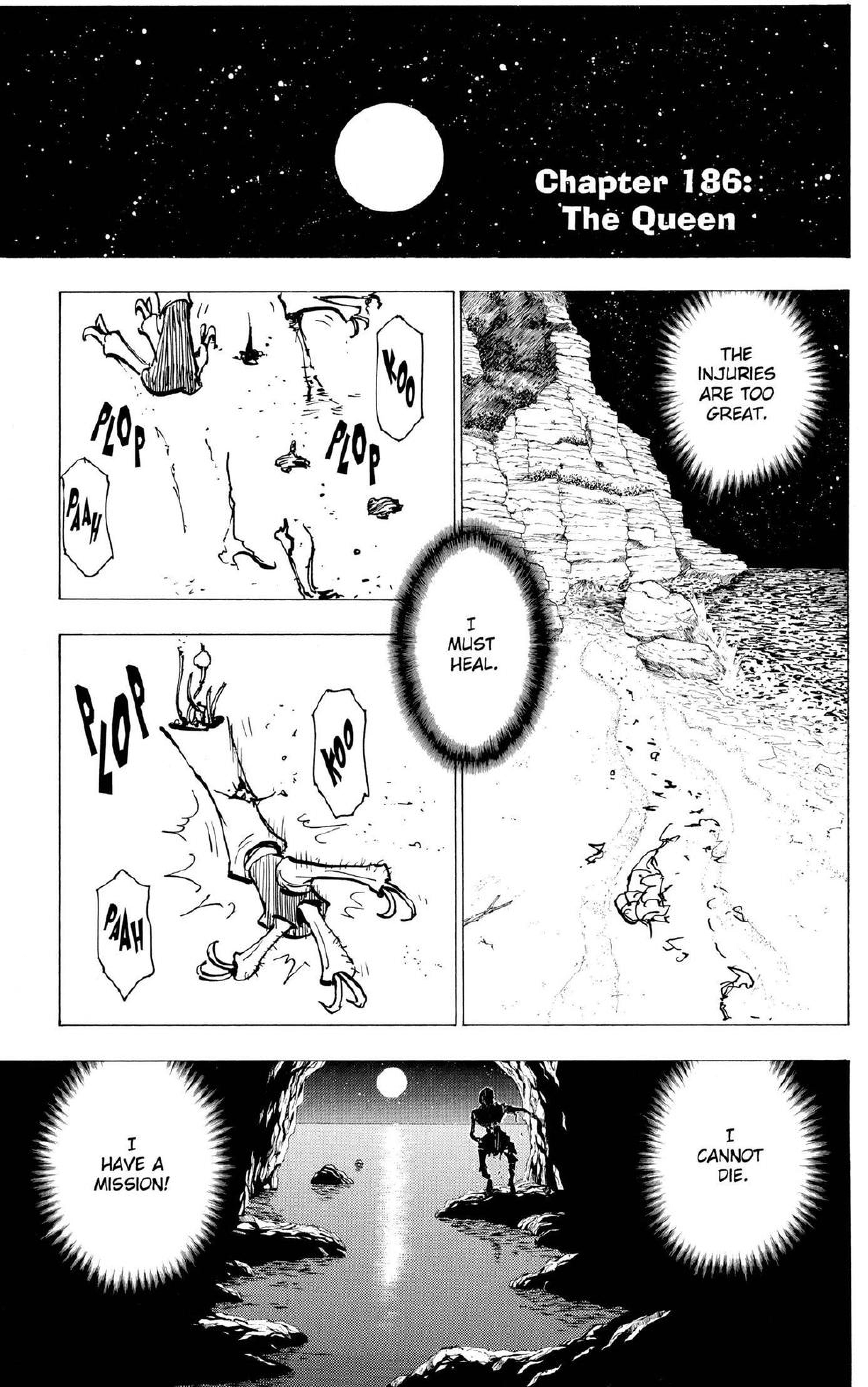

HEY, YOU'VE GOTTEN BIG!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
FSH
KITE?!
?
?


POP
PCH
OH YEAH. GING DID TAKE ME INSIDE THAT GAME ONCE.
I FORGET WHAT HANDLE I USED.
I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HIM.
ARGH, HE GOT ME!
WE WERE SO SURE IT WOULD WORK, TOO.
TELL ME ALL YOUR STORIES.
YOU GOT TIME, RIGHT?
OF COURSE!!

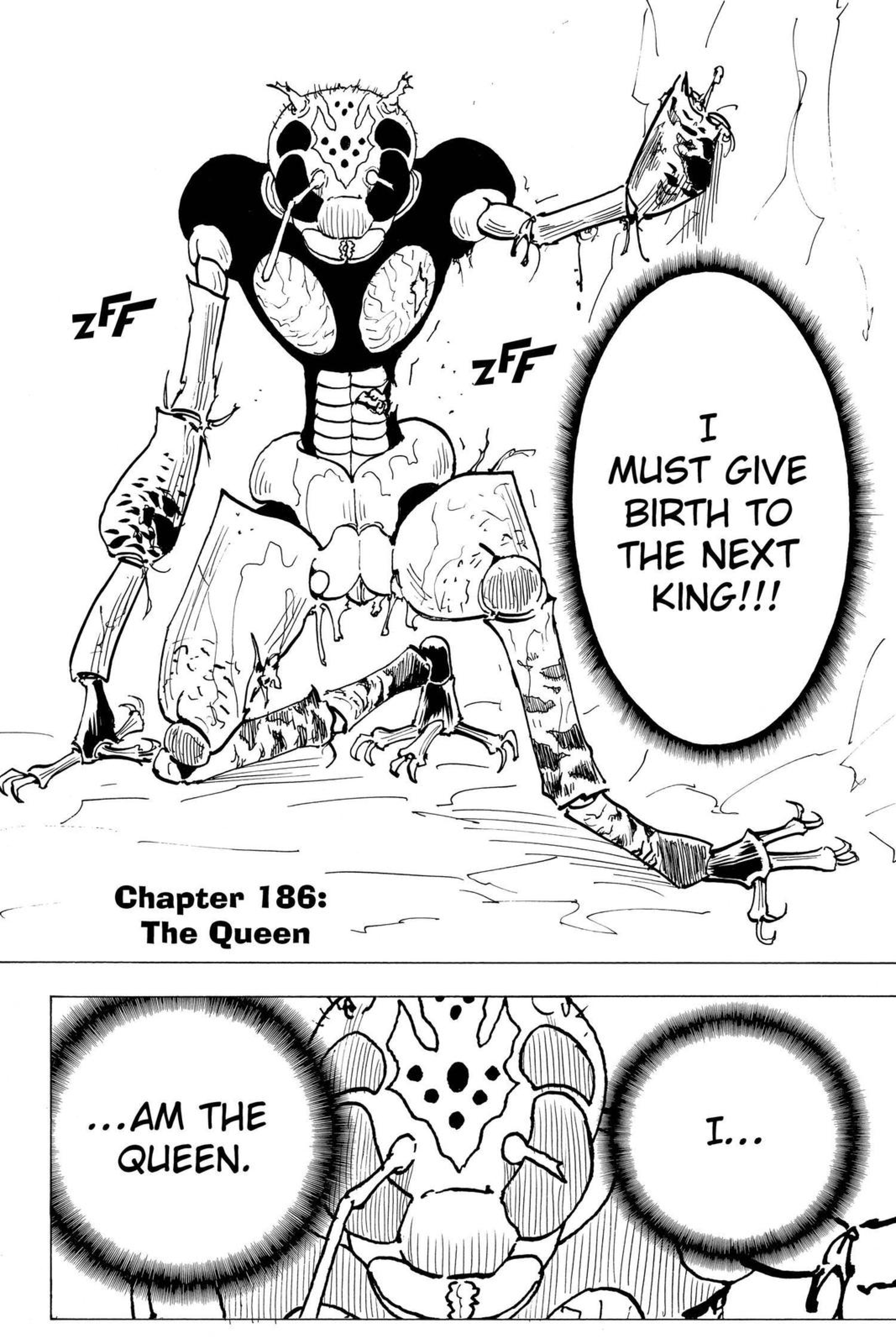

BIP
PHEW.
IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU WANTED, GING?
COULD YOU SET IT SO GON WOULD FLY TO ME IF HE USED "MAGNETIC FORCE," AND TO KITE IF HE USED "ACCOMPANY"?
SURE, BUT...
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
I *SUPPOSE* I COULD SEE HIM IF HE CAME BY HIMSELF...
BUT IF HE'S A WIMP WHO HAS TO HAVE HIS FRIENDS AROUND ALL THE TIME? FORGET IT!
WHY IS HE A WIMP IF HE HAS FRIENDS?
I DON'T GET IT.
JUST DO IT!
YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO FEEL SELF-CONSCIOUS.
SHUT UP! DO IT ALREADY!
HE'S SUCH A SHY SOURPUSS.
POOR GON.

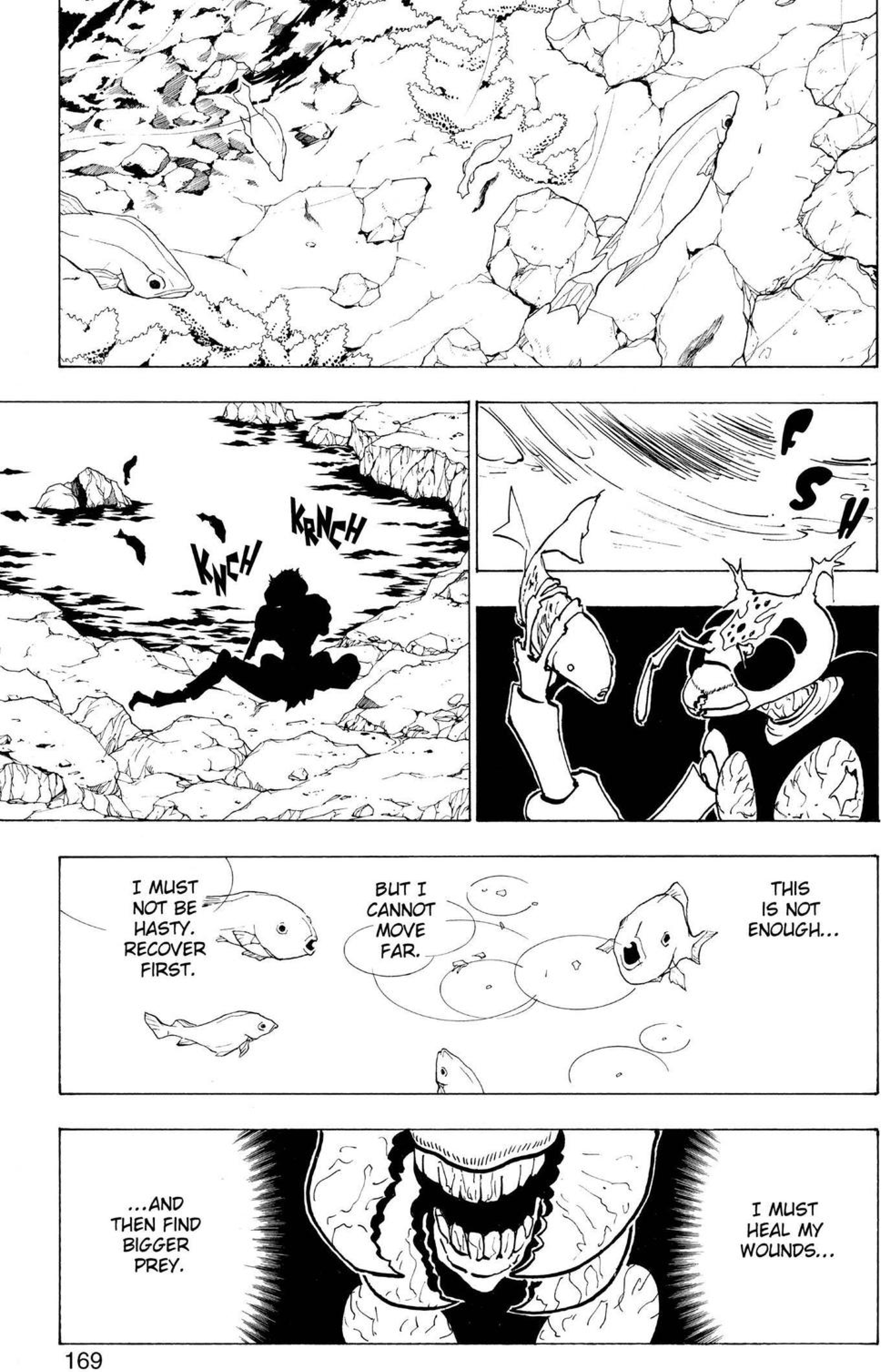

WHAT?! YOU'VE FOUND GING ALREADY?!
A LONG TIME AGO.
NOW I CAN CALL MYSELF A REAL HUNTER.
WANT TO KNOW WHERE HE IS?
...
NO, I'LL LOOK FOR HIM MYSELF!!
GOOD ANSWER.
MEANWHILE... ON THE SOUTHERN SHORES OF THE BALSA ISLANDS IN THE YORBIAN CONTINENT...
ZFF
...A CREATURE WASHED UP ON THE BEACH.

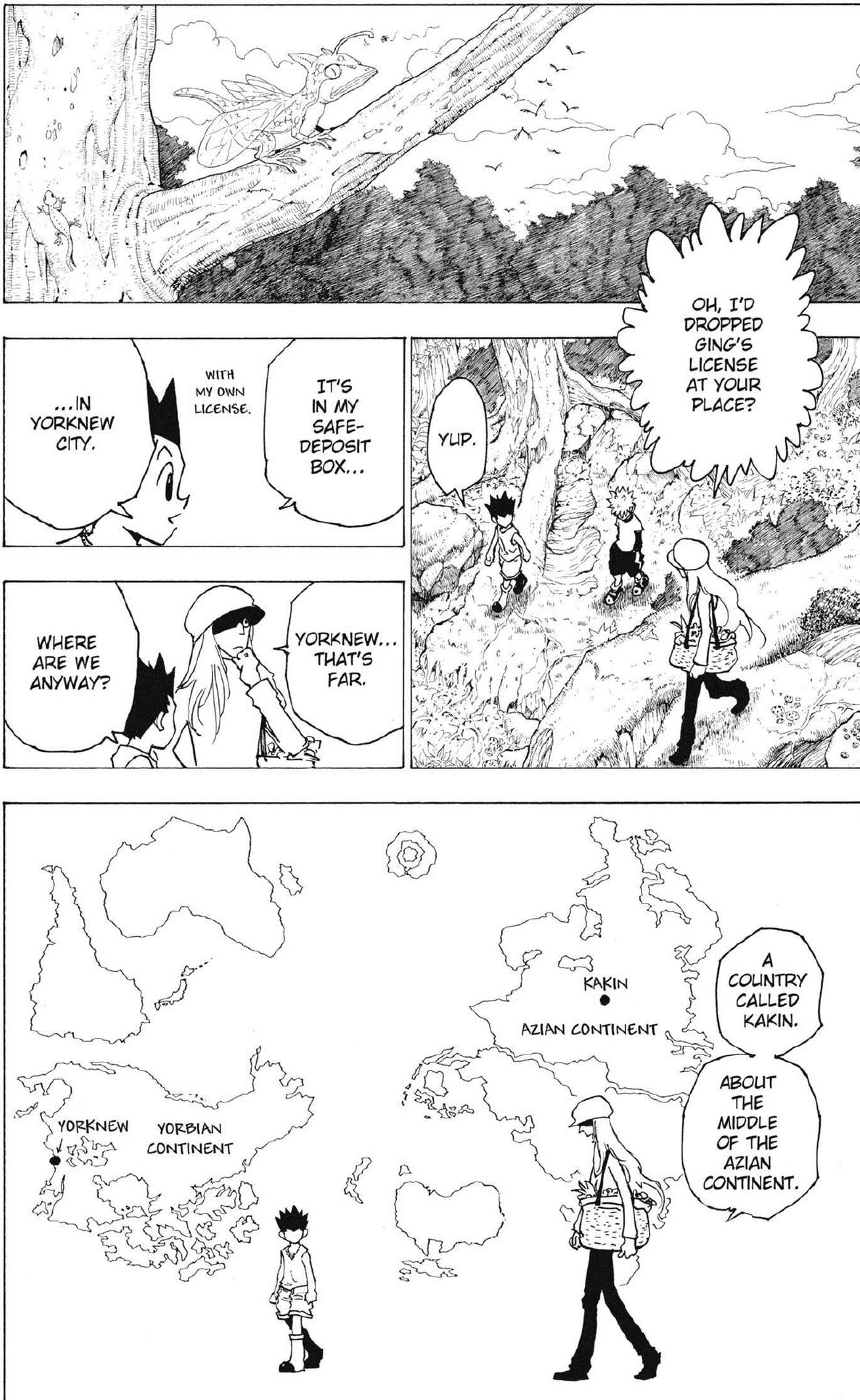
Chapter 186: The Queen

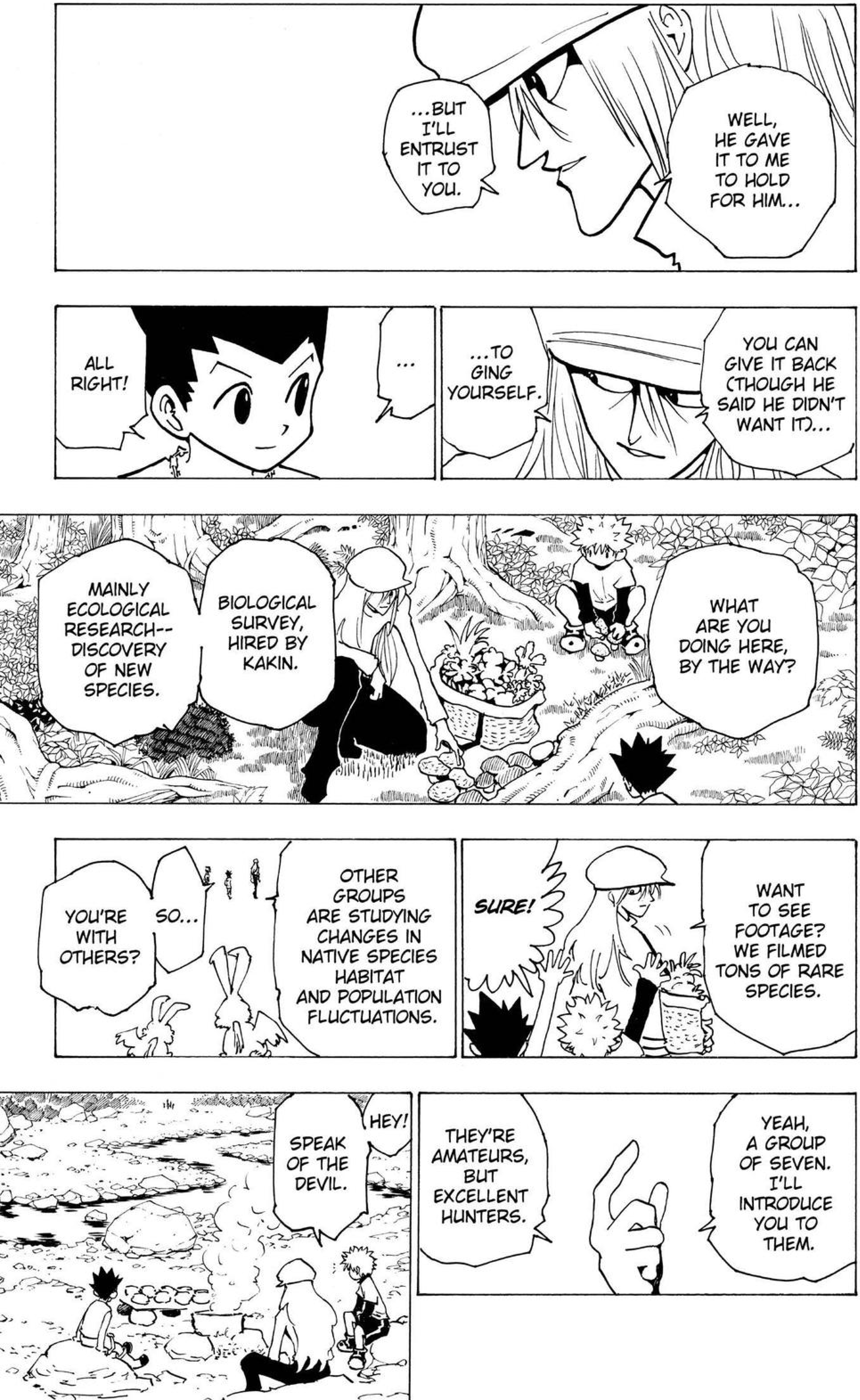

THE INJURIES ARE TOO GREAT.
I MUST HEAL.
KOO
PLOP
PLOP
PAAH
KOO
PLOP
PAAH
I CANNOT DIE.
I HAVE A MISSION!

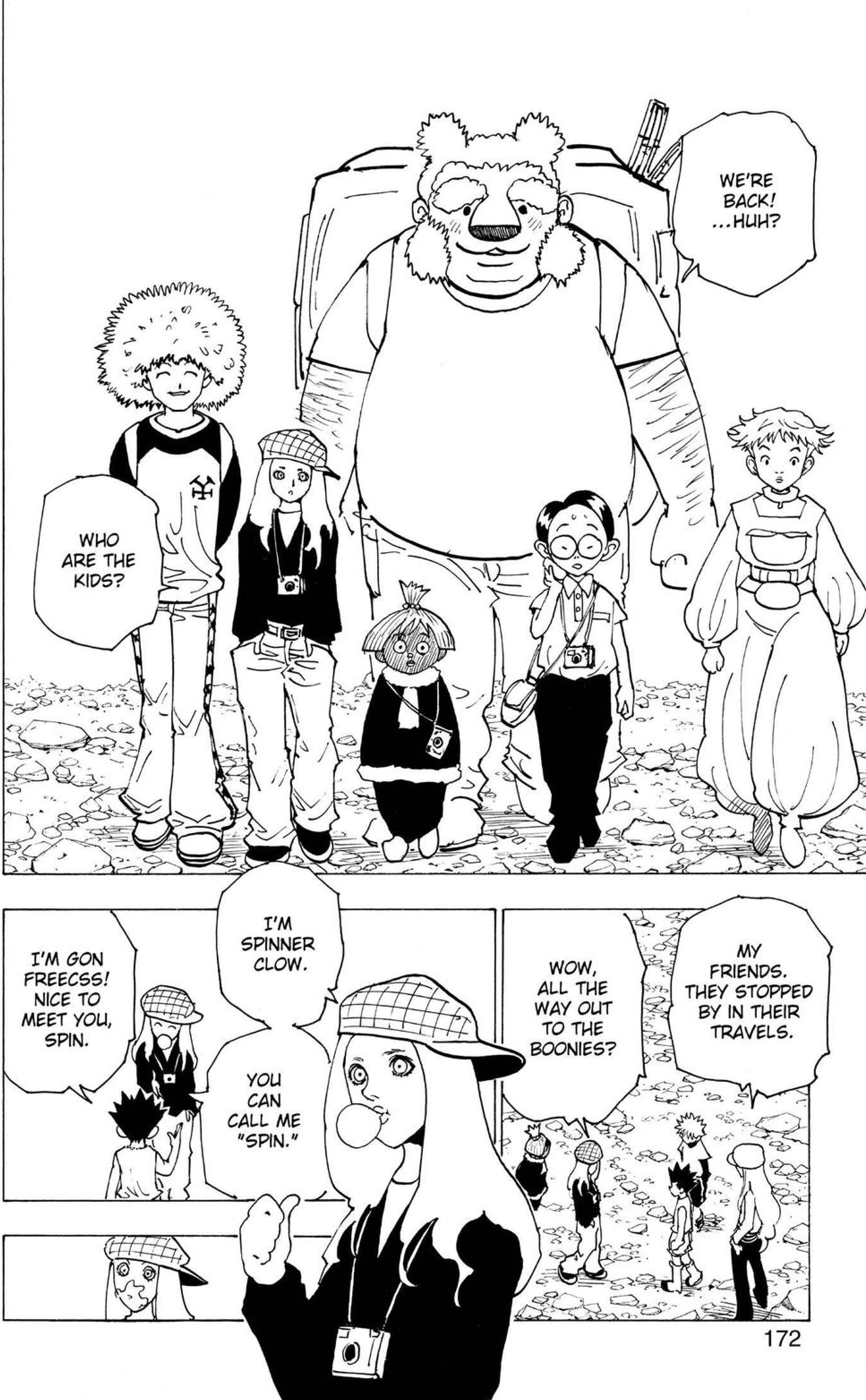
Chapter 186: The Queen

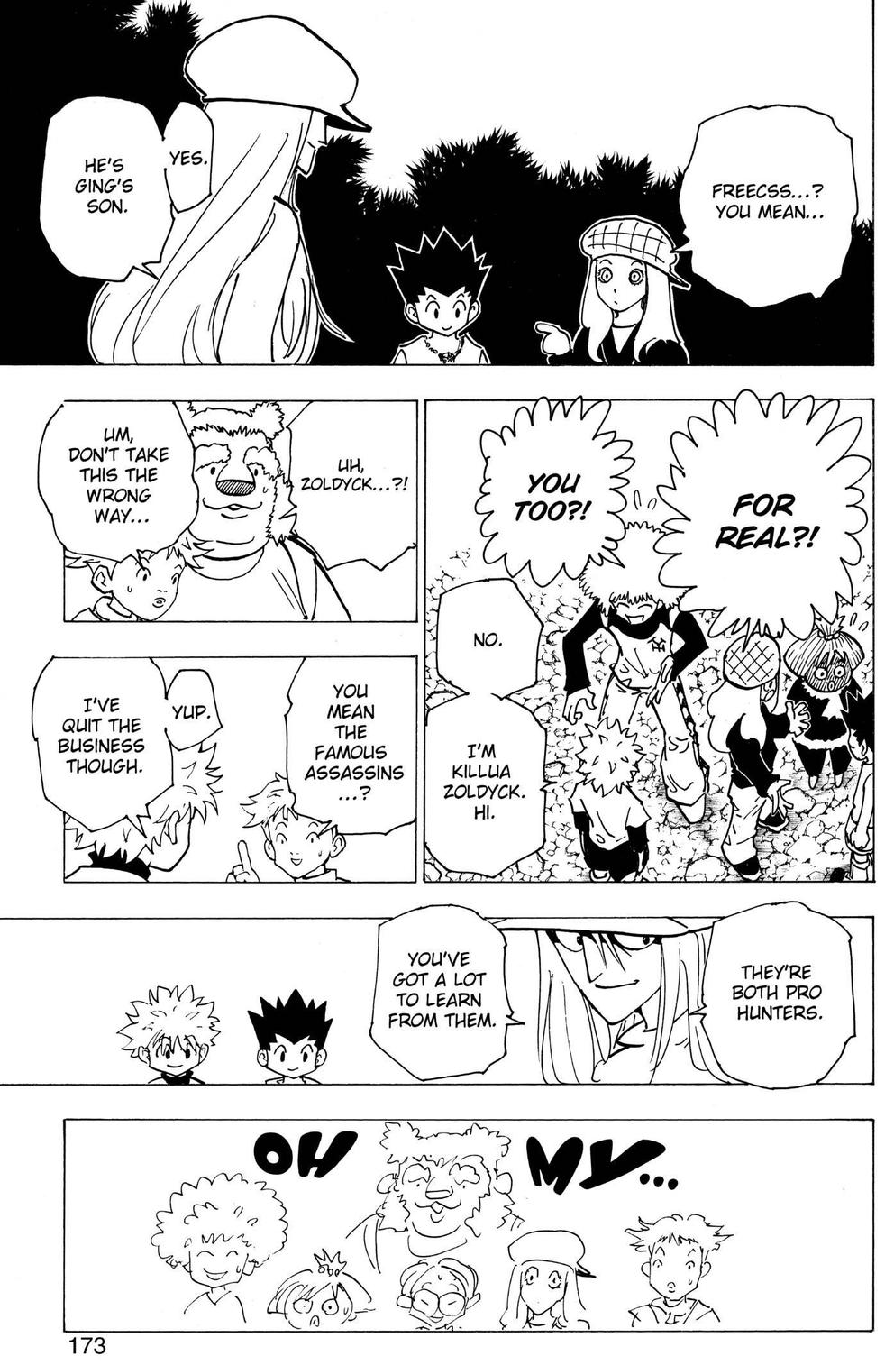

ZFF
ZFF
I MUST GIVE BIRTH TO THE NEXT KING!!!
I...
...AM THE QUEEN.

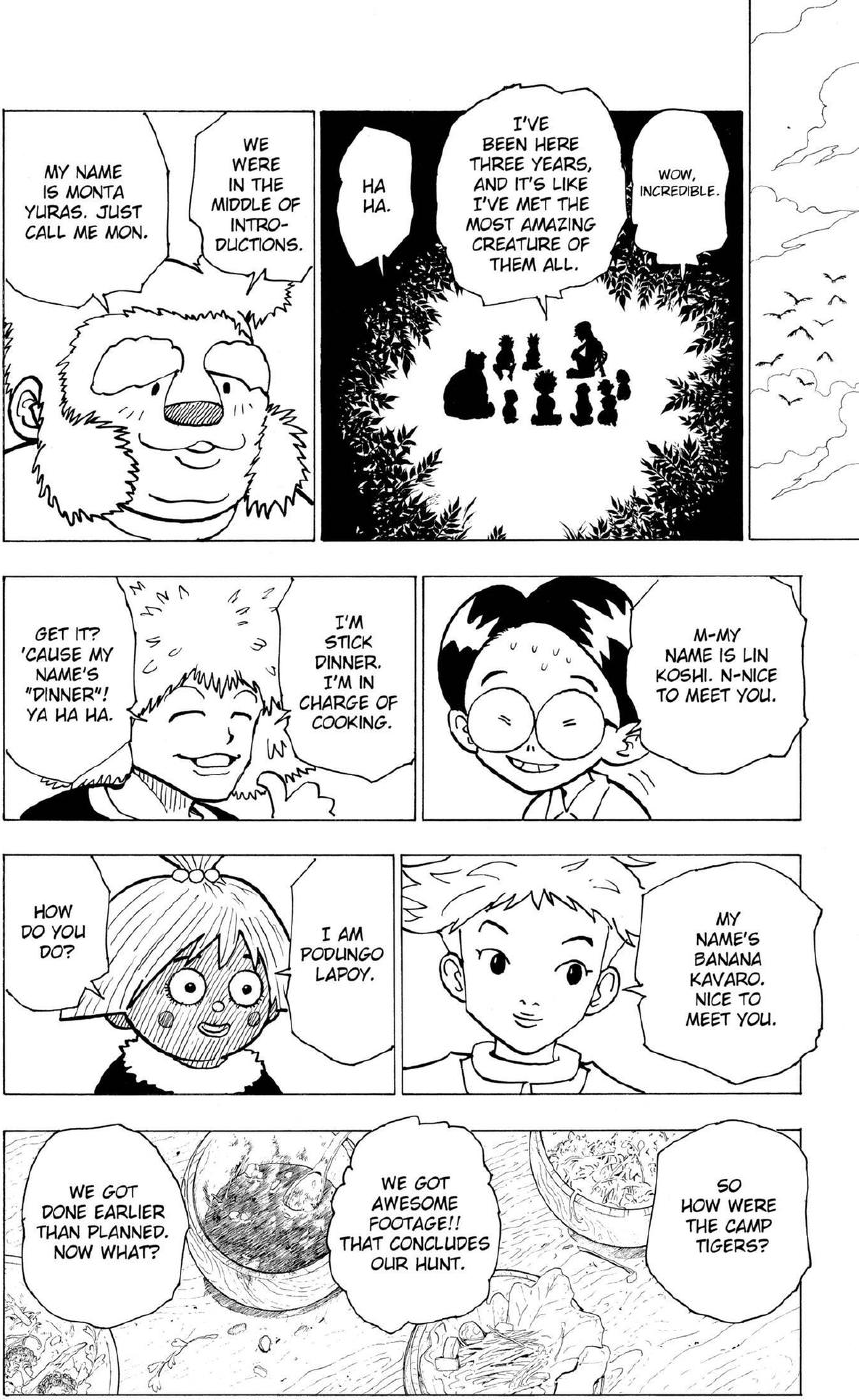

FSH
KRNCH
KNCH
THIS IS NOT ENOUGH...
BUT I CANNOT MOVE FAR.
I MUST NOT BE HASTY. RECOVER FIRST.
I MUST HEAL MY WOUNDS...
...AND THEN FIND BIGGER PREY.

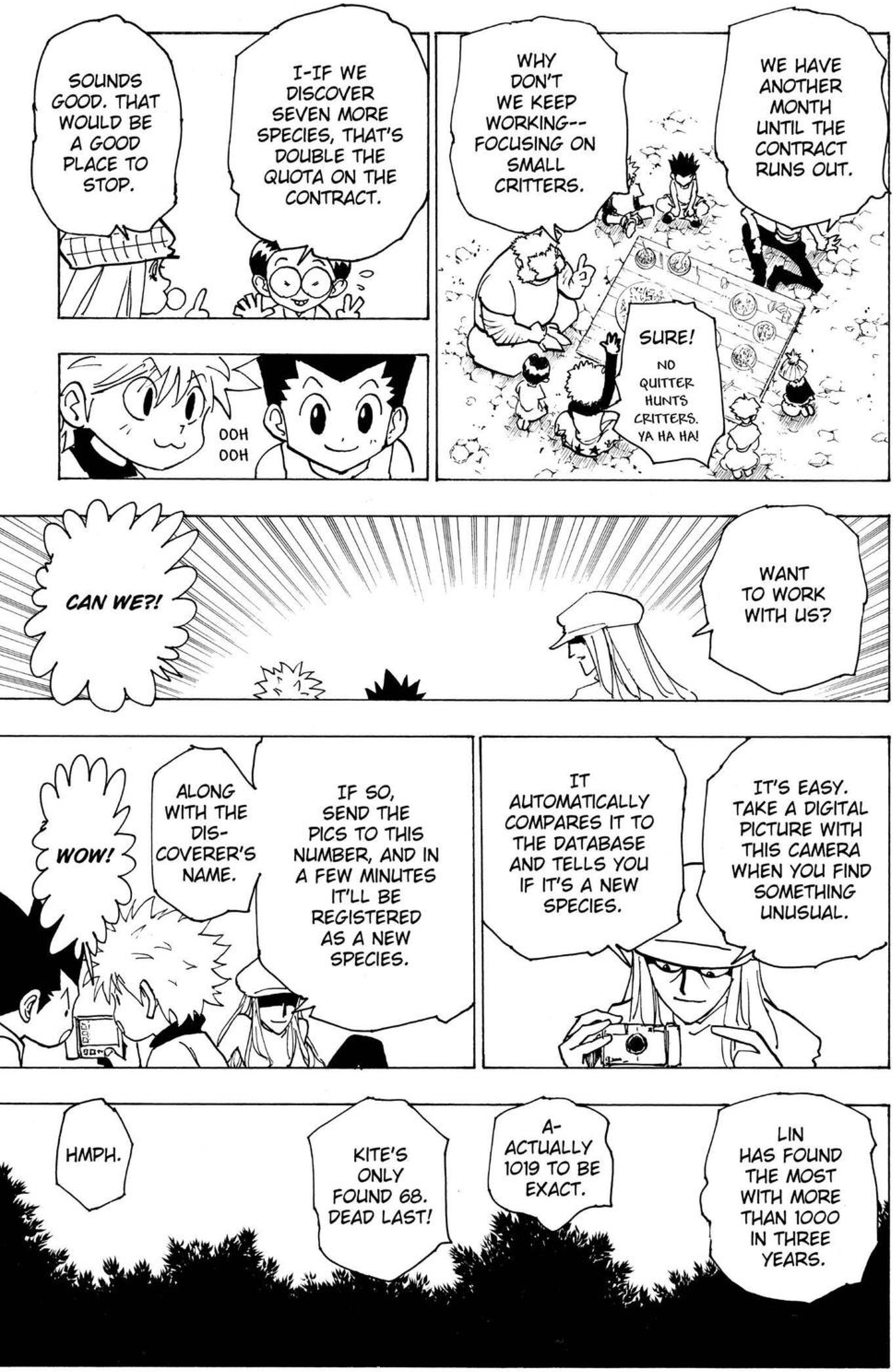

OH, I'D DROPPED GING'S LICENSE AT YOUR PLACE?
YUP.
IT'S IN MY SAFE-DEPOSIT BOX...
WITH MY OWN LICENSE.
...IN YORKNEW CITY.
YORKNEW... THAT'S FAR.
WHERE ARE WE ANYWAY?
A COUNTRY CALLED KAKIN.
ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE AZIAN CONTINENT.
KAKIN
AZIAN CONTINENT
YORKNEW
YORBIAN CONTINENT

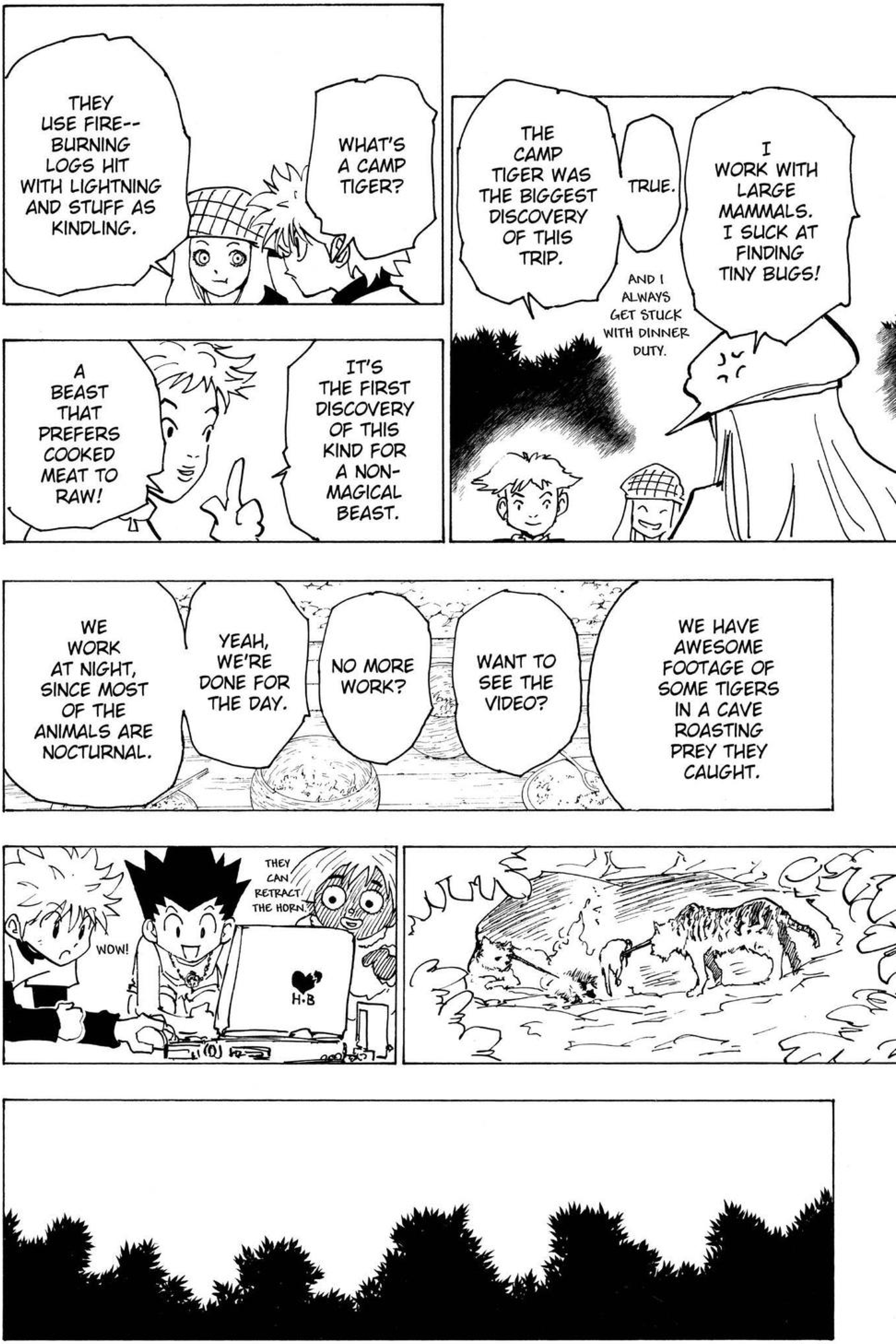

WELL, HE GAVE IT TO ME TO HOLD FOR HIM...
...BUT I'LL ENTRUST IT TO YOU.
YOU CAN GIVE IT BACK (THOUGH HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT IT)...
...TO GING YOURSELF.
...
ALL RIGHT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, BY THE WAY?
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY, HIRED BY KAKIN.
MAINLY ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH--DISCOVERY OF NEW SPECIES.
WANT TO SEE FOOTAGE? WE FILMED TONS OF RARE SPECIES.
SURE!
OTHER GROUPS ARE STUDYING CHANGES IN NATIVE SPECIES HABITAT AND POPULATION FLUCTUATIONS.
SO...
YOU'RE WITH OTHERS?
YEAH, A GROUP OF SEVEN. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THEM.
THEY'RE AMATEURS, BUT EXCELLENT HUNTERS.
HEY!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.


WE'RE BACK! ...HUH?
WHO ARE THE KIDS?
MY FRIENDS. THEY STOPPED BY IN THEIR TRAVELS.
WOW, ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE BOONIES?
I'M SPINNER CLOW.
YOU CAN CALL ME "SPIN."
I'M GON FREECSS! NICE TO MEET YOU, SPIN.

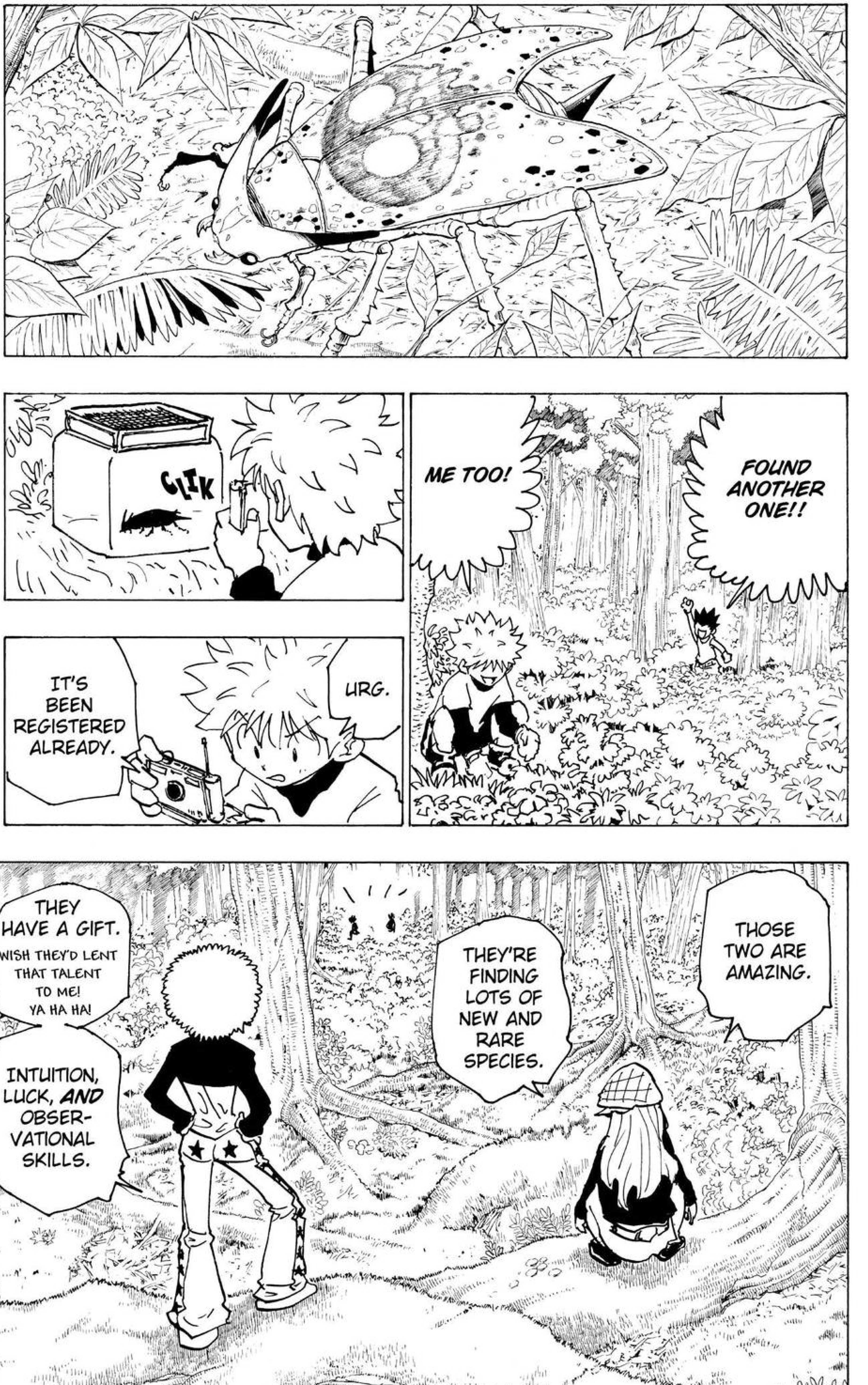

FREECSS...? YOU MEAN...
YES.
HE'S GING'S SON.
FOR REAL?!
YOU TOO?!
NO.
I'M KILLUA ZOLDYCK. HI.
UH, ZOLDYCK...?!
UM, DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY...
YOU MEAN THE FAMOUS ASSASSINS ...?
YUP.
I'VE QUIT THE BUSINESS THOUGH.
THEY'RE BOTH PRO HUNTERS.
YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN FROM THEM.
OH MY...

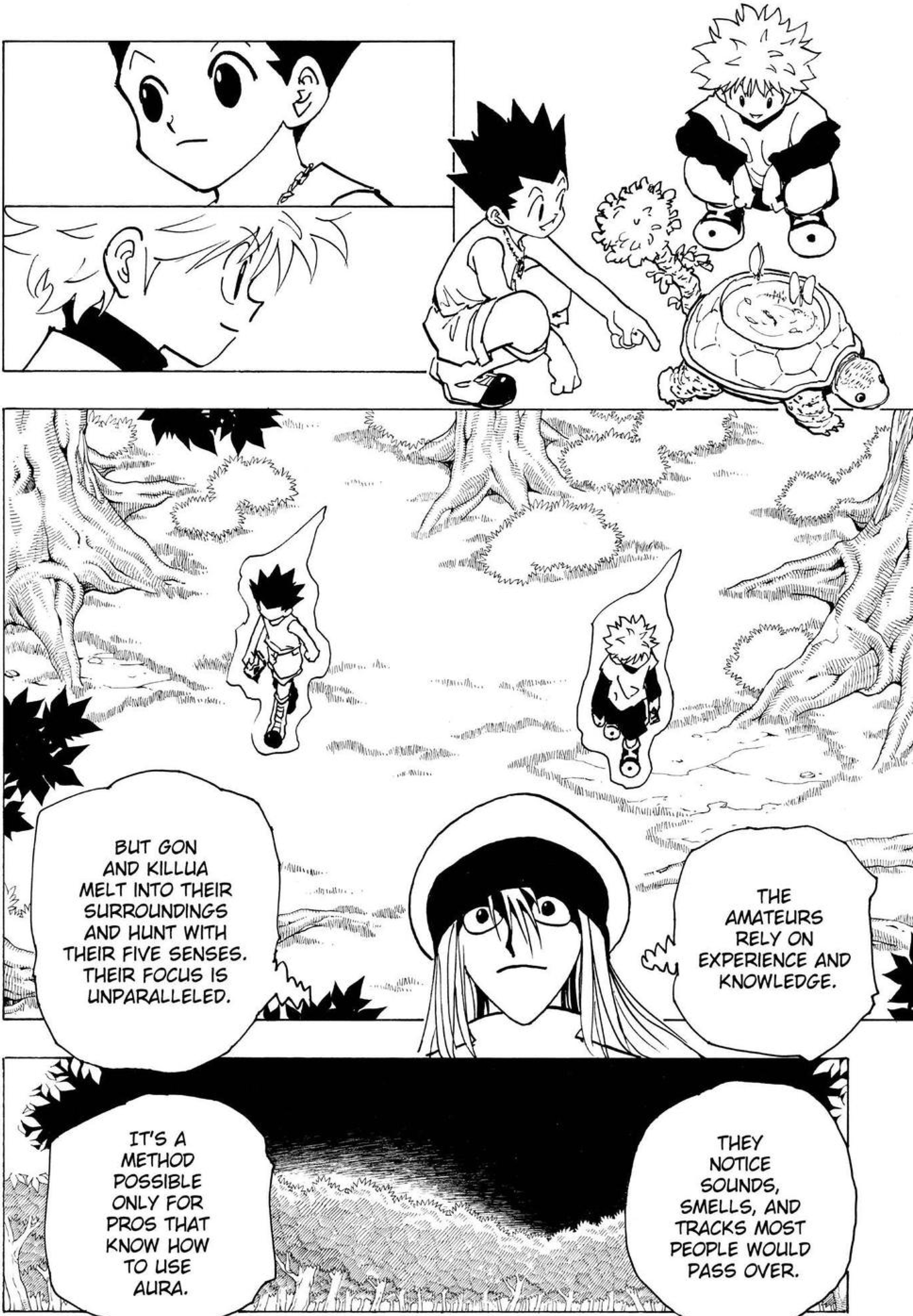

WOW, INCREDIBLE.
I'VE BEEN HERE THREE YEARS, AND IT'S LIKE I'VE MET THE MOST AMAZING CREATURE OF THEM ALL.
HA HA.
WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF INTRODUCTIONS.
MY NAME IS MONTA YURAS. JUST CALL ME MON.
M-MY NAME IS LIN KOSHI. N-NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M STICK DINNER. I'M IN CHARGE OF COOKING.
GET IT? 'CAUSE MY NAME'S "DINNER"! YA HA HA.
MY NAME'S BANANA KAVARO. NICE TO MEET YOU.
I AM PODUNGO LAPOY.
HOW DO YOU DO?
SO HOW WERE THE CAMP TIGERS?
WE GOT AWESOME FOOTAGE!! THAT CONCLUDES OUR HUNT.
WE GOT DONE EARLIER THAN PLANNED. NOW WHAT?

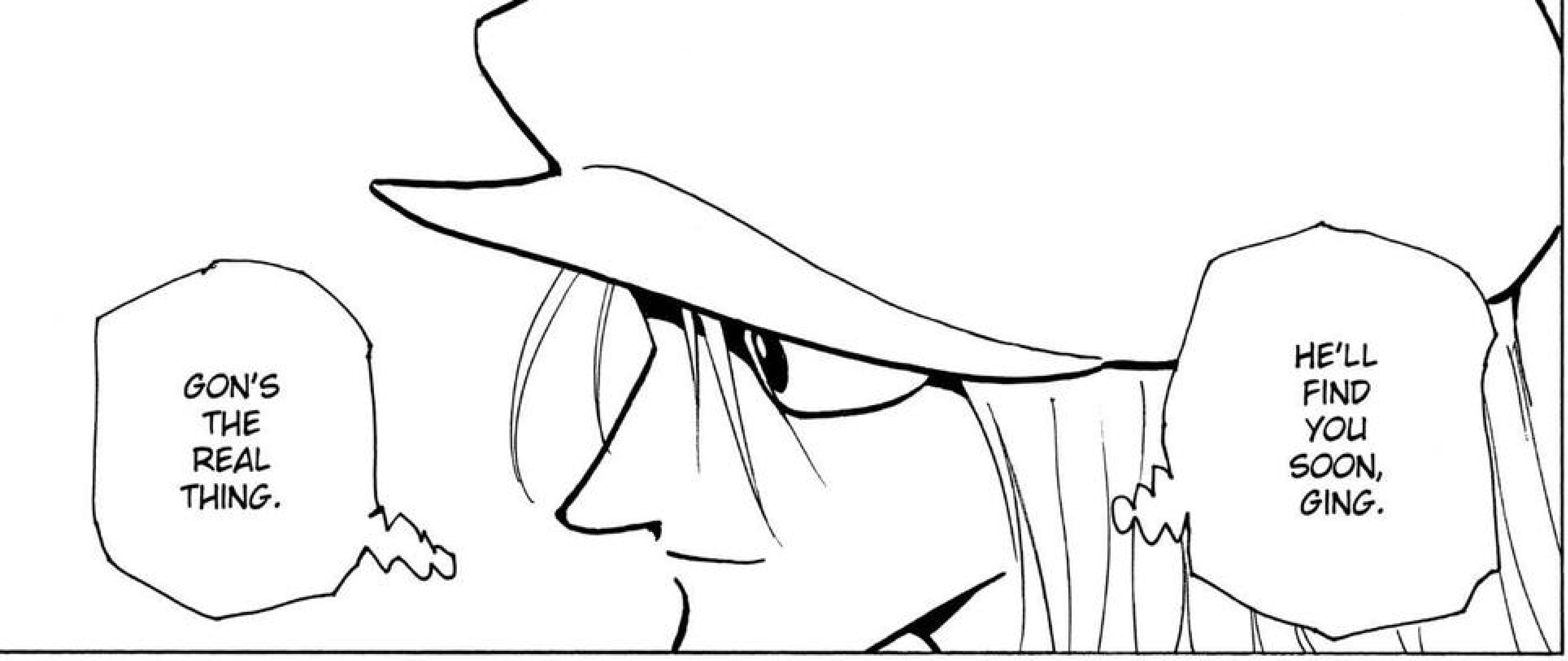

WE HAVE ANOTHER MONTH UNTIL THE CONTRACT RUNS OUT.
WHY DON'T WE KEEP WORKING-- FOCUSING ON SMALL CRITTERS.
SURE!
NO QUITTER HUNTS CRITTERS. YA HA HA!
I-IF WE DISCOVER SEVEN MORE SPECIES, THAT'S DOUBLE THE QUOTA ON THE CONTRACT.
SOUNDS GOOD. THAT WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE TO STOP.
OOH OOH
WANT TO WORK WITH US?
CAN WE?!
IT'S EASY. TAKE A DIGITAL PICTURE WITH THIS CAMERA WHEN YOU FIND SOMETHING UNUSUAL.
IT AUTOMATICALLY COMPARES IT TO THE DATABASE AND TELLS YOU IF IT'S A NEW SPECIES.
IF SO, SEND THE PICS TO THIS NUMBER, AND IN A FEW MINUTES IT'LL BE REGISTERED AS A NEW SPECIES.
ALONG WITH THE DIS-COVERER'S NAME.
WOW!
LIN HAS FOUND THE MOST WITH MORE THAN 1000 IN THREE YEARS.
A- ACTUALLY 1019 TO BE EXACT.
KITE'S ONLY FOUND 68. DEAD LAST!
HMPH.

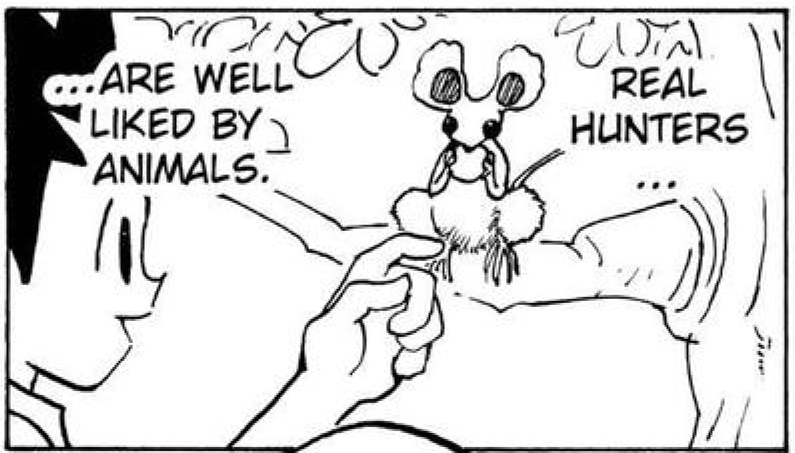

I WORK WITH LARGE MAMMALS. I SUCK AT FINDING TINY BUGS!
AND I ALWAYS GET STUCK WITH DINNER DUTY.
TRUE.
THE CAMP TIGER WAS THE BIGGEST DISCOVERY OF THIS TRIP.
WHAT'S A CAMP TIGER?
THEY USE FIRE-- BURNING LOGS HIT WITH LIGHTNING AND STUFF AS KINDLING.
IT'S THE FIRST DISCOVERY OF THIS KIND FOR A NON-MAGICAL BEAST.
A BEAST THAT PREFERS COOKED MEAT TO RAW!
WE HAVE AWESOME FOOTAGE OF SOME TIGERS IN A CAVE ROASTING PREY THEY CAUGHT.
WANT TO SEE THE VIDEO?
NO MORE WORK?
YEAH, WE'RE DONE FOR THE DAY.
WE WORK AT NIGHT, SINCE MOST OF THE ANIMALS ARE NOCTURNAL.
THEY CAN RETRACT THE HORN.
H·B
WOW!

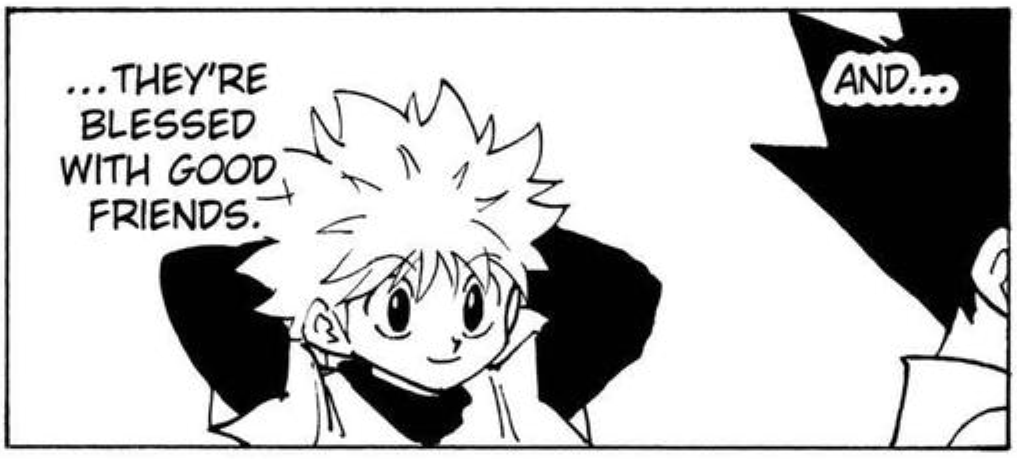
READ THIS WAY

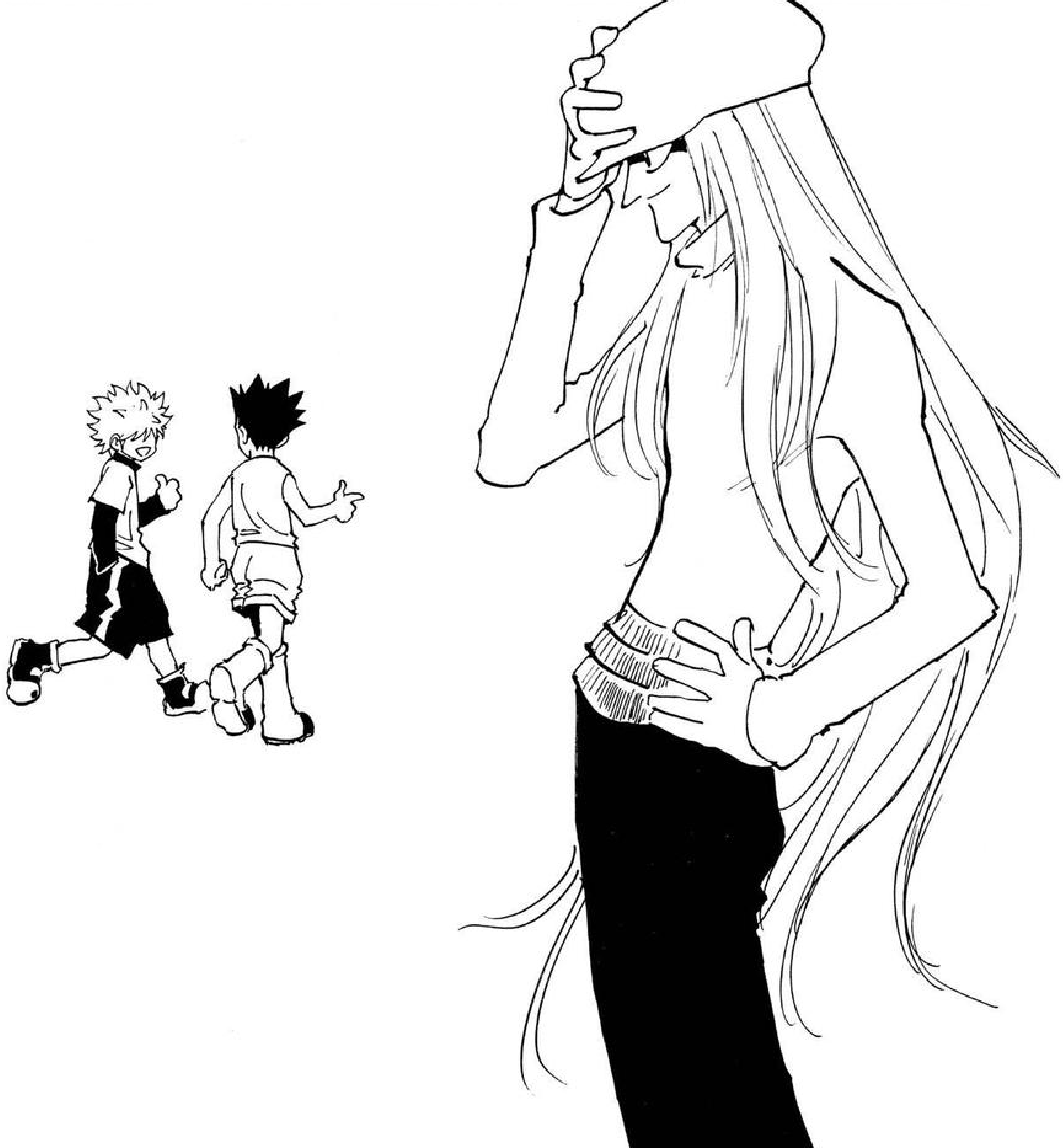

FOUND ANOTHER ONE!!
ME TOO!
CLIK
URG.
IT'S BEEN REGISTERED ALREADY.
THOSE TWO ARE AMAZING.
THEY'RE FINDING LOTS OF NEW AND RARE SPECIES.
THEY HAVE A GIFT. WISH THEY'D LENT THAT TALENT TO ME! YA HA HA!
INTUITION, LUCK, *AND* OBSERVATIONAL SKILLS.

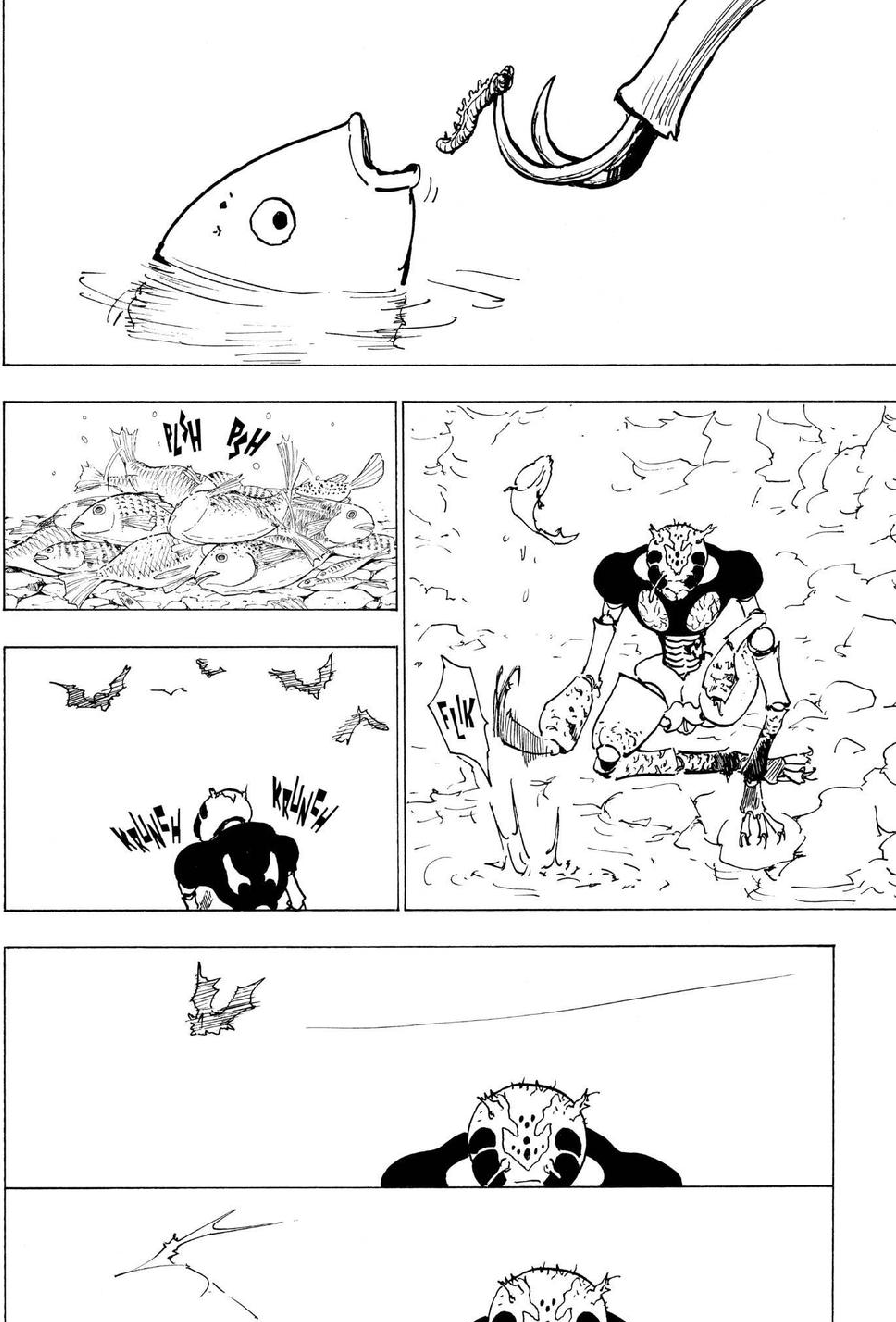

THE AMATEURS RELY ON EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE.
BUT GON AND KILLUA MELT INTO THEIR SURROUNDINGS AND HUNT WITH THEIR FIVE SENSES. THEIR FOCUS IS UNPARALLELED.
THEY NOTICE SOUNDS, SMELLS, AND TRACKS MOST PEOPLE WOULD PASS OVER.
IT'S A METHOD POSSIBLE ONLY FOR PROS THAT KNOW HOW TO USE AURA.

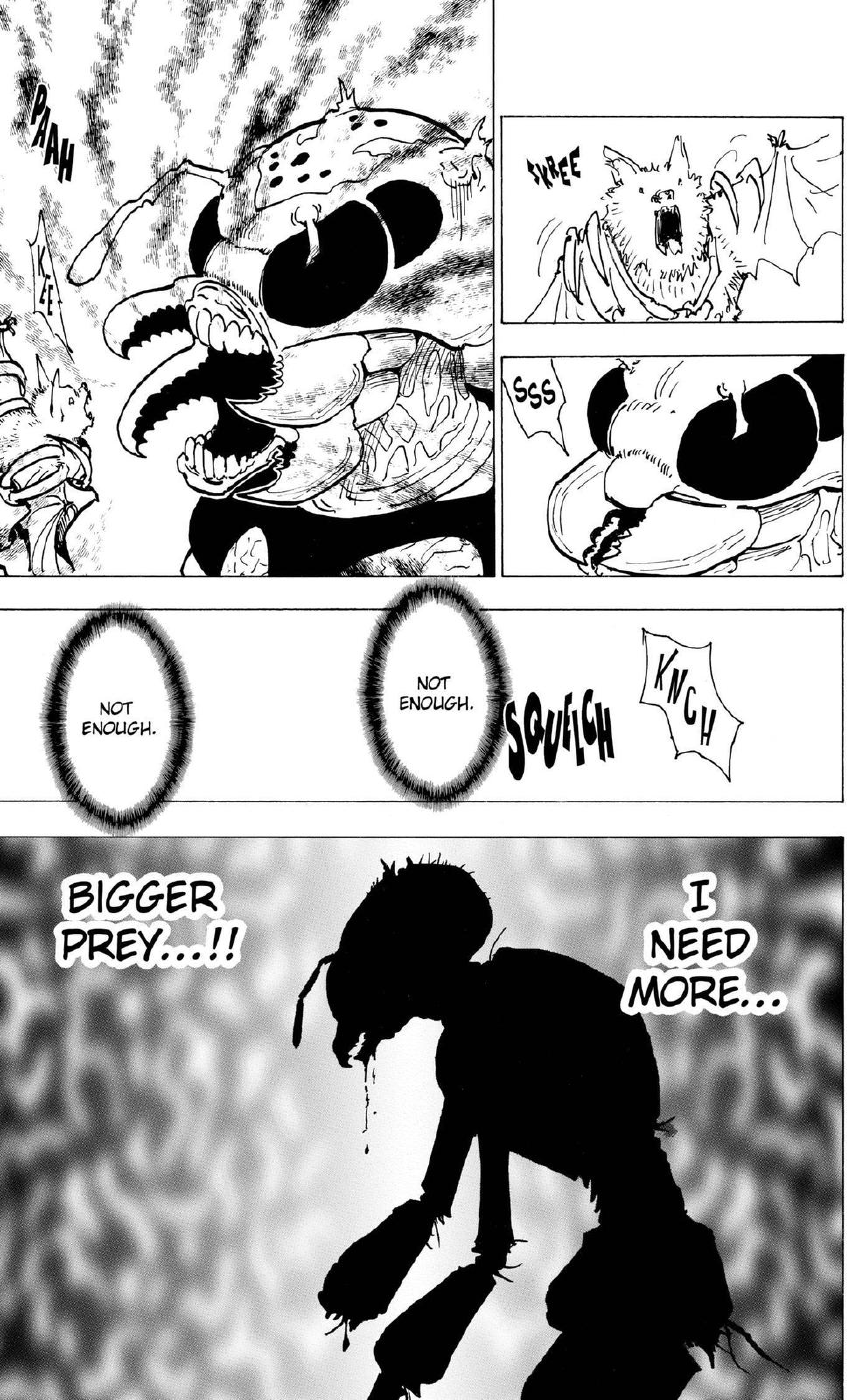

HE'LL FIND YOU SOON, GING.
GON'S THE REAL THING.


REAL HUNTERS ...
...ARE WELL LIKED BY ANIMALS.

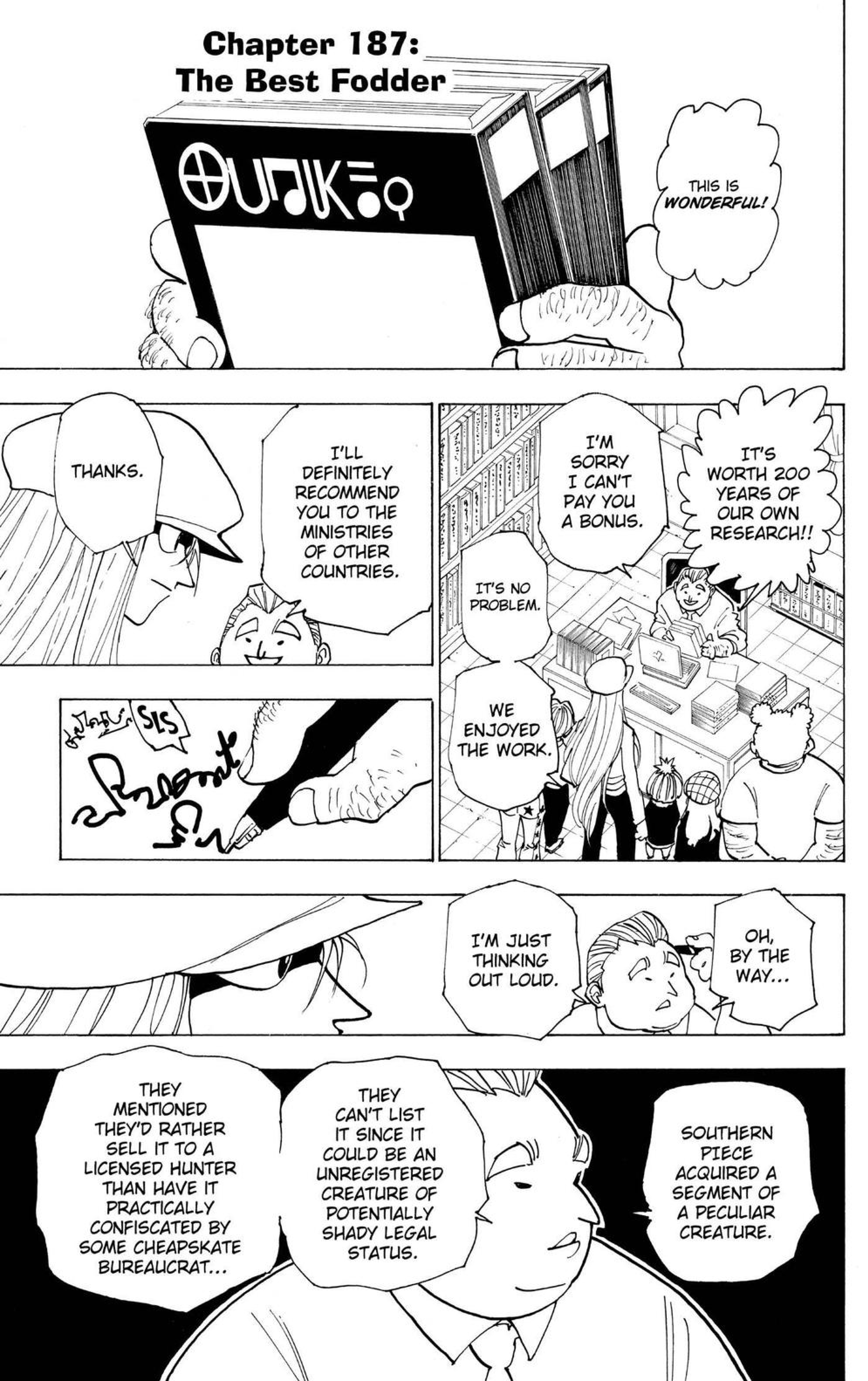

AND...
...THEY'RE BLESSED WITH GOOD FRIENDS.

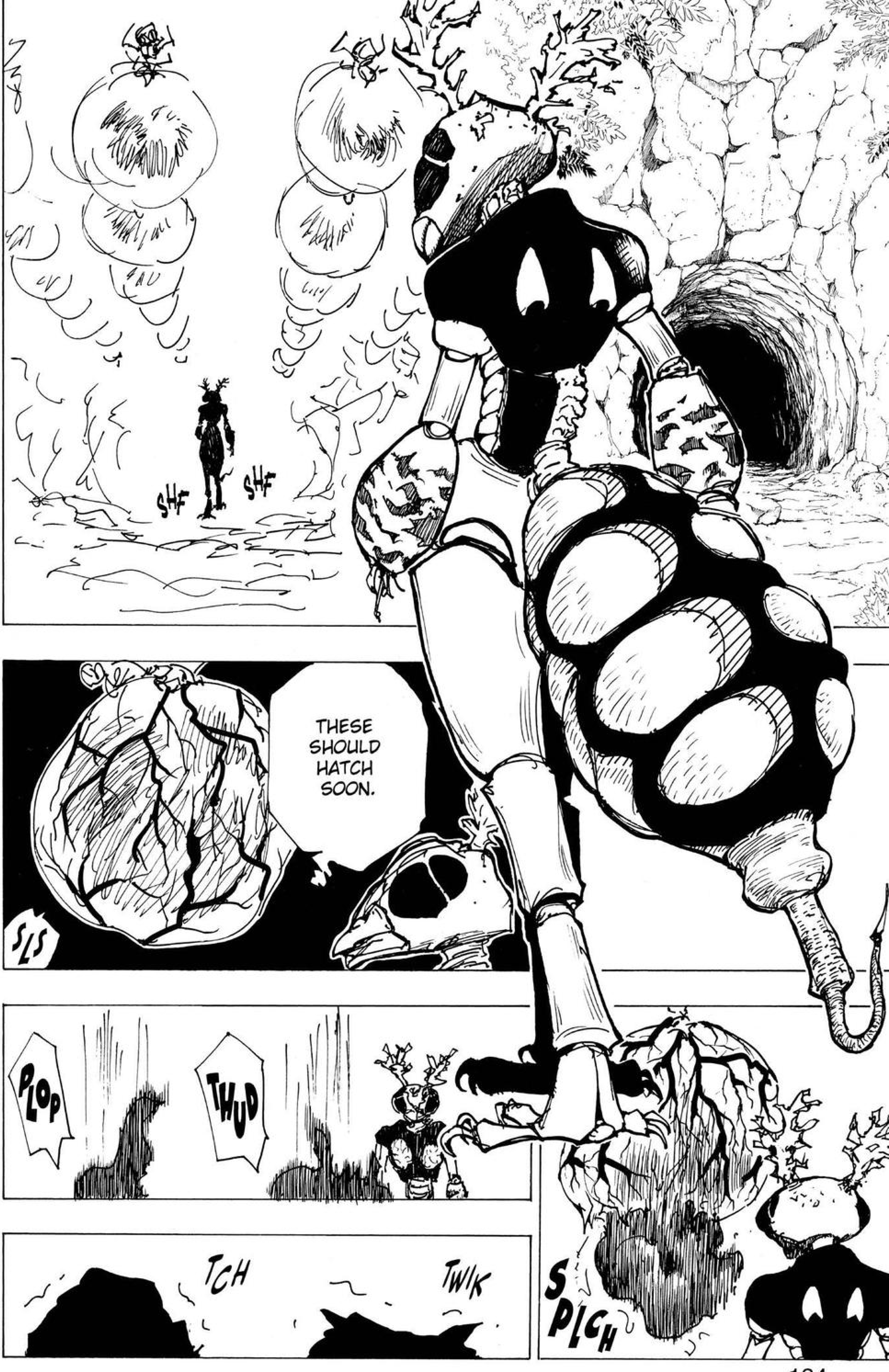


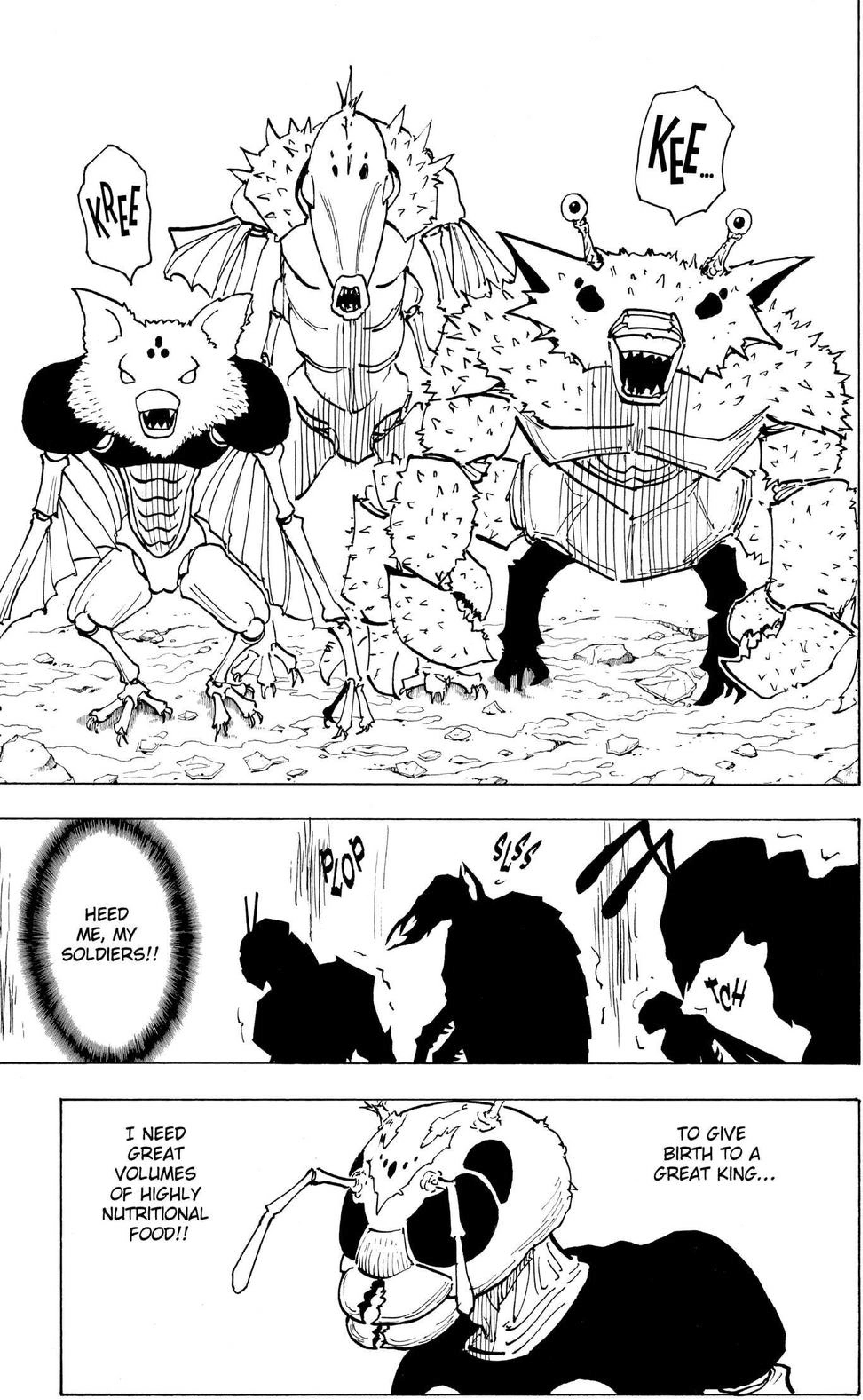

FLIK
PLSH
PSH
KRUNCH
KRUNCH

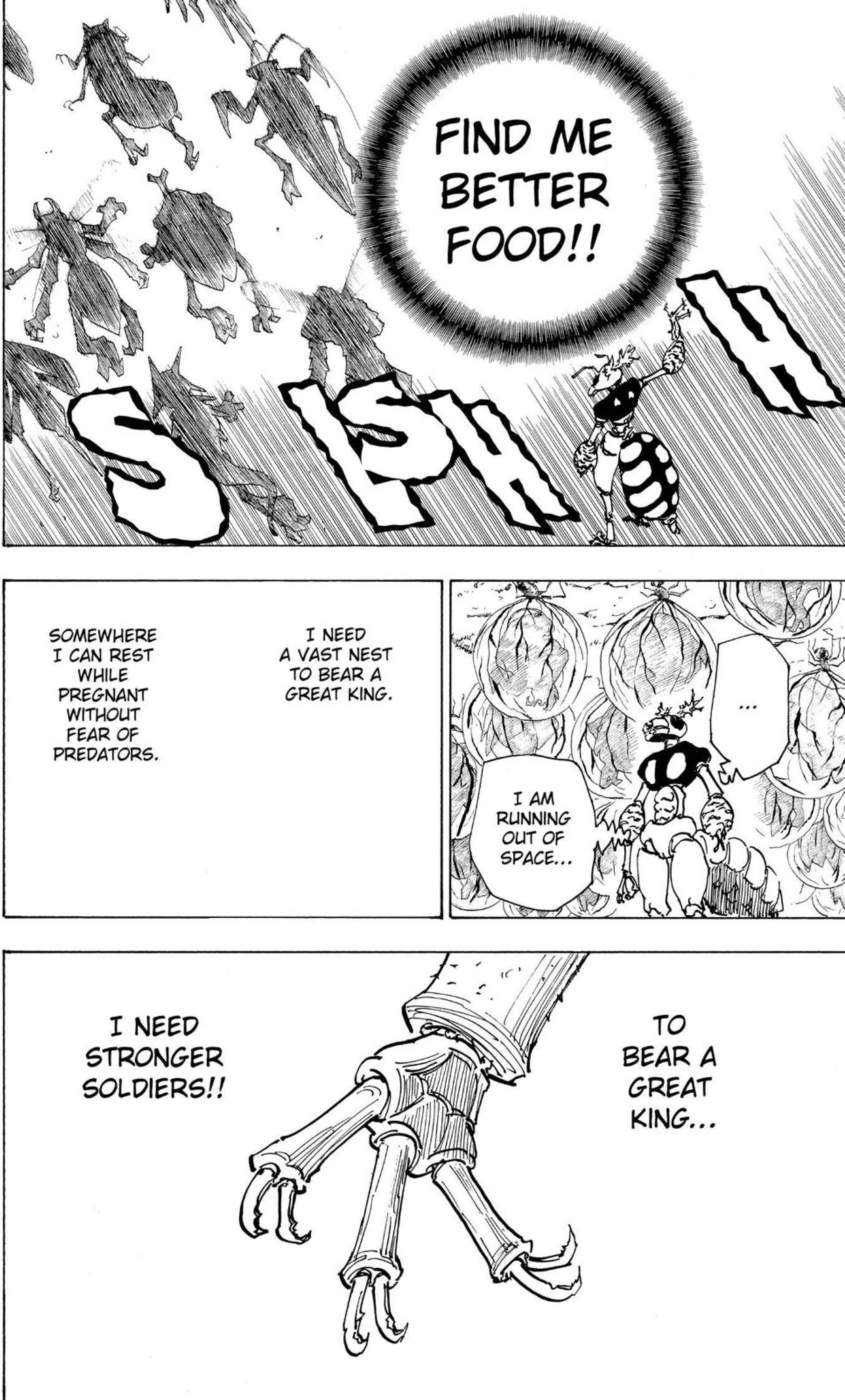

SKREE
SSS
PAAH
KEE
KNCH
SQUELCH
NOT ENOUGH.
NOT ENOUGH.
I NEED MORE...
BIGGER PREY...!!

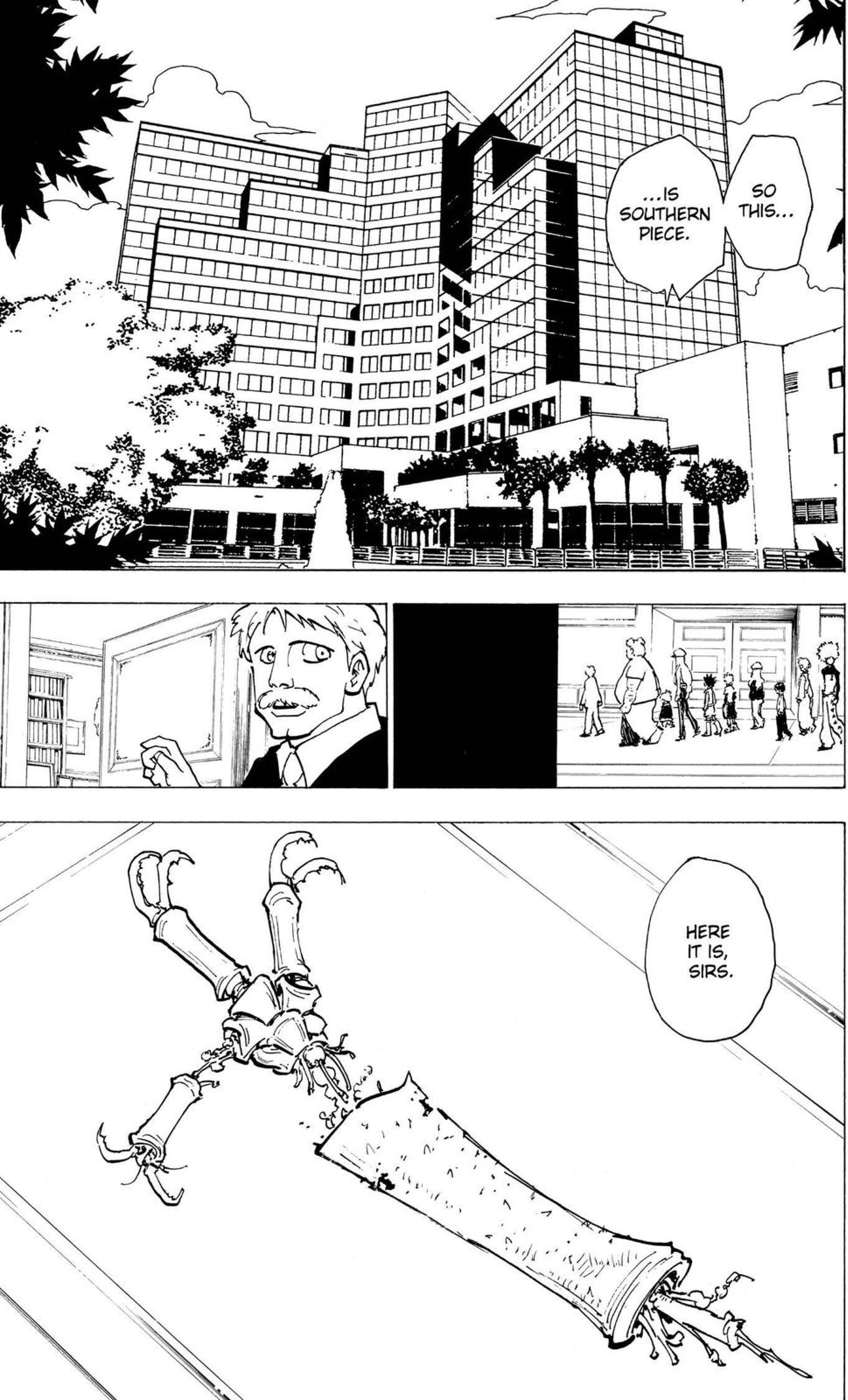
Chapter 187: The Best Fodder

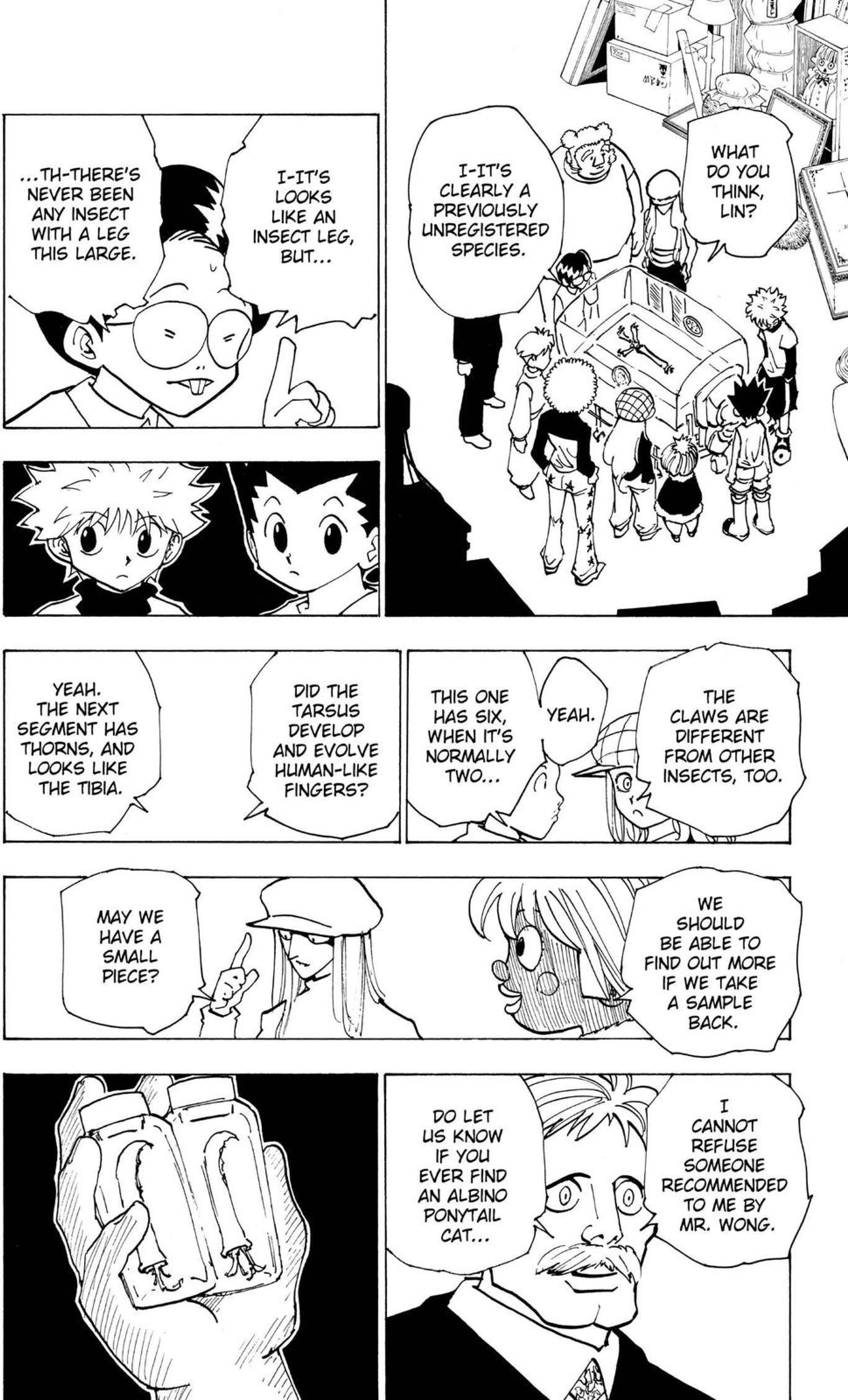

THIS IS *WONDERFUL!*
IT'S WORTH 200 YEARS OF OUR OWN RESEARCH!!
I'M SORRY I CAN'T PAY YOU A BONUS.
IT'S NO PROBLEM.
WE ENJOYED THE WORK.
I'LL DEFINITELY RECOMMEND YOU TO THE MINISTRIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES.
THANKS.
SIS
OH, BY THE WAY...
I'M JUST THINKING OUT LOUD.
SOUTHERN PIECE ACQUIRED A SEGMENT OF A PECULIAR CREATURE.
THEY CAN'T LIST IT SINCE IT COULD BE AN UNREGISTERED CREATURE OF POTENTIALLY SHADY LEGAL STATUS.
THEY MENTIONED THEY'D RATHER SELL IT TO A LICENSED HUNTER THAN HAVE IT PRACTICALLY CONFISCATED BY SOME CHEAPSKATE BUREAUCRAT...

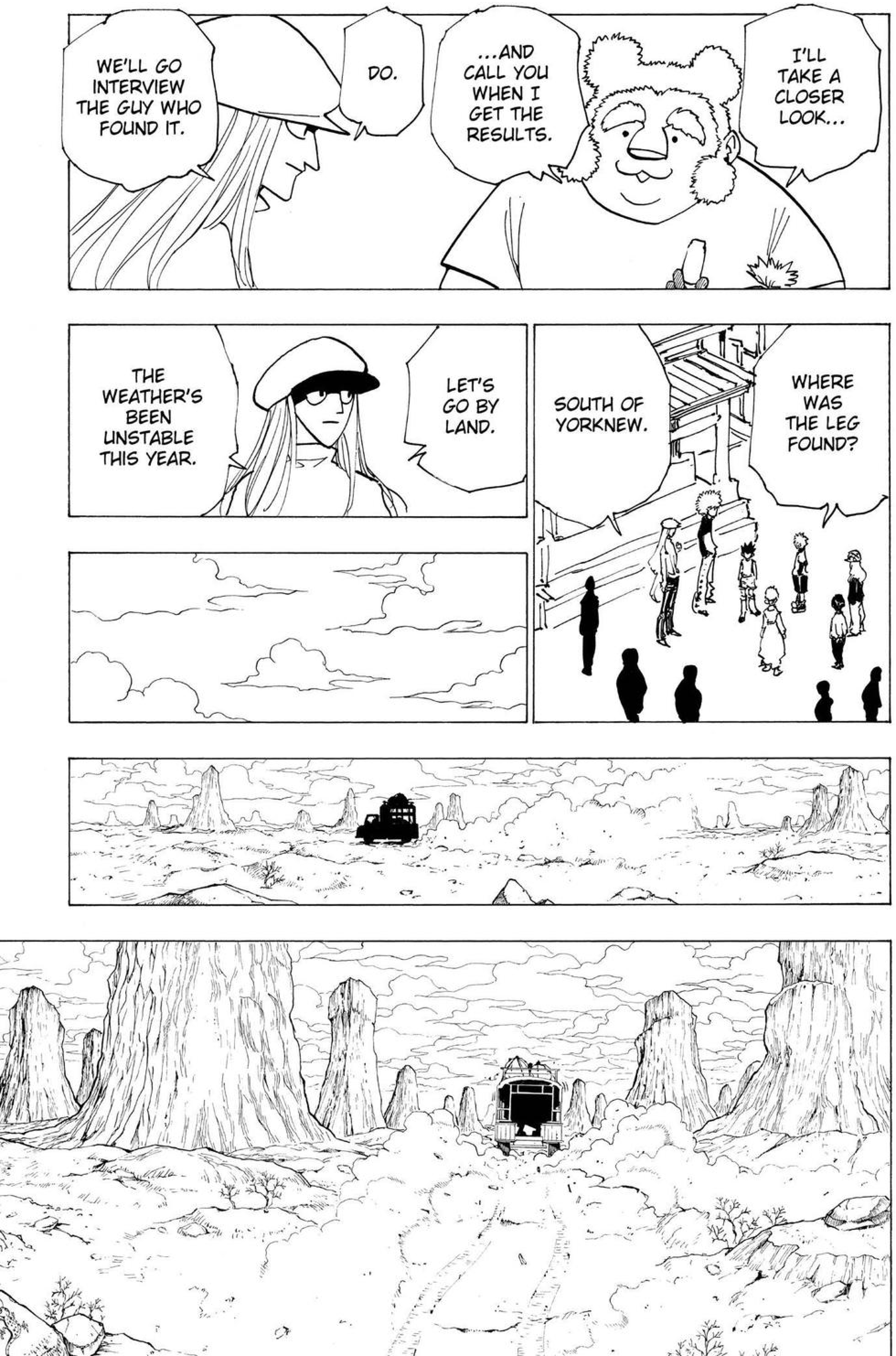

SHF
SHF
SLS
THESE SHOULD HATCH SOON.
SLS
THUD
PLOP
SPLCH
TWIK
TCH

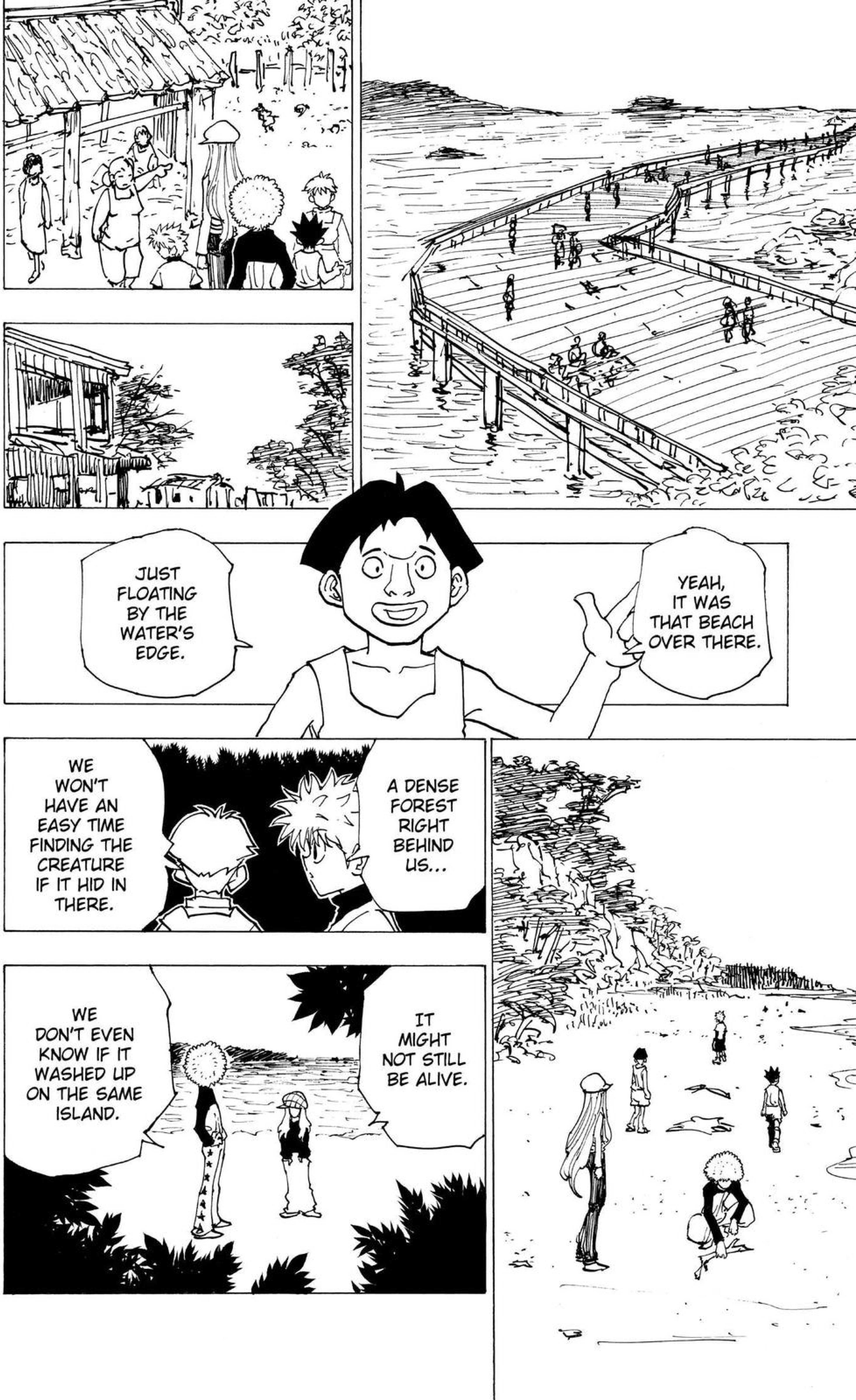

KEE...
KREE
TCH
SLSS
PLOP
HEED ME, MY SOLDIERS!!
TO GIVE BIRTH TO A GREAT KING...
I NEED GREAT VOLUMES OF HIGHLY NUTRITIONAL FOOD!!

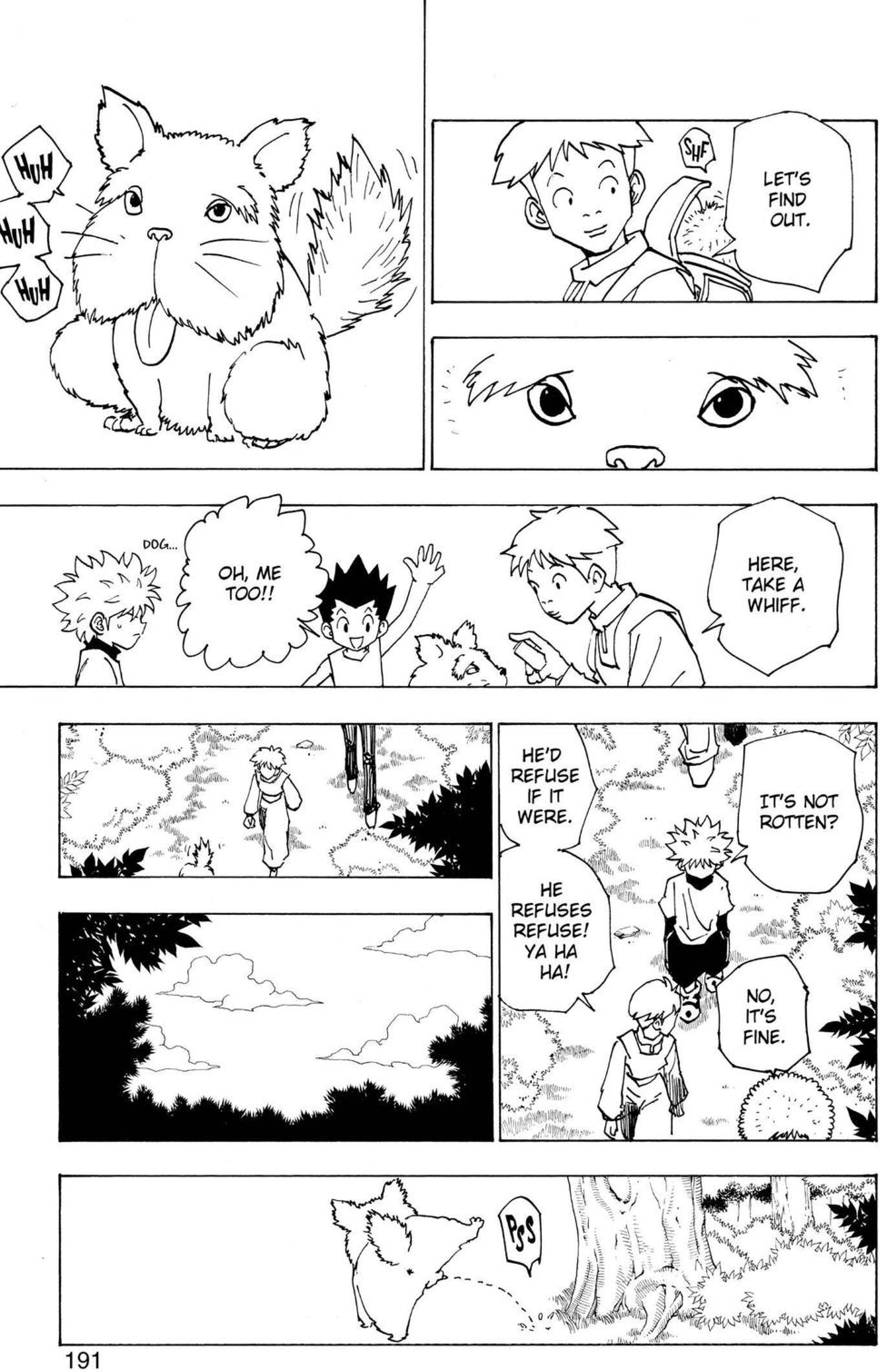

FIND ME BETTER FOOD!!
...
I AM RUNNING OUT OF SPACE...
I NEED A VAST NEST TO BEAR A GREAT KING.
SOMEWHERE I CAN REST WHILE PREGNANT WITHOUT FEAR OF PREDATORS.
TO BEAR A GREAT KING...
I NEED STRONGER SOLDIERS!!

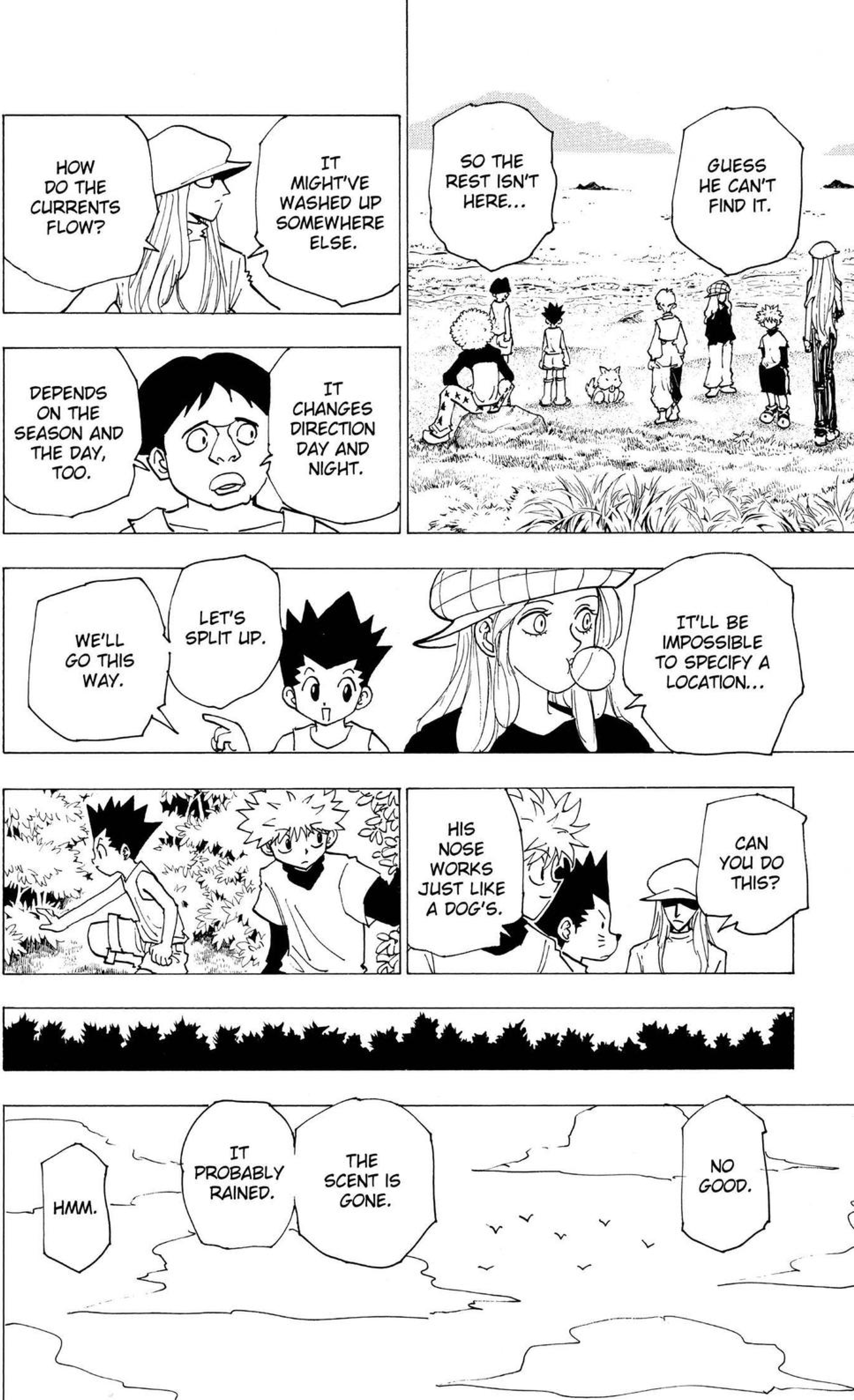

SO THIS...
...IS SOUTHERN PIECE.
HERE IT IS, SIRS.

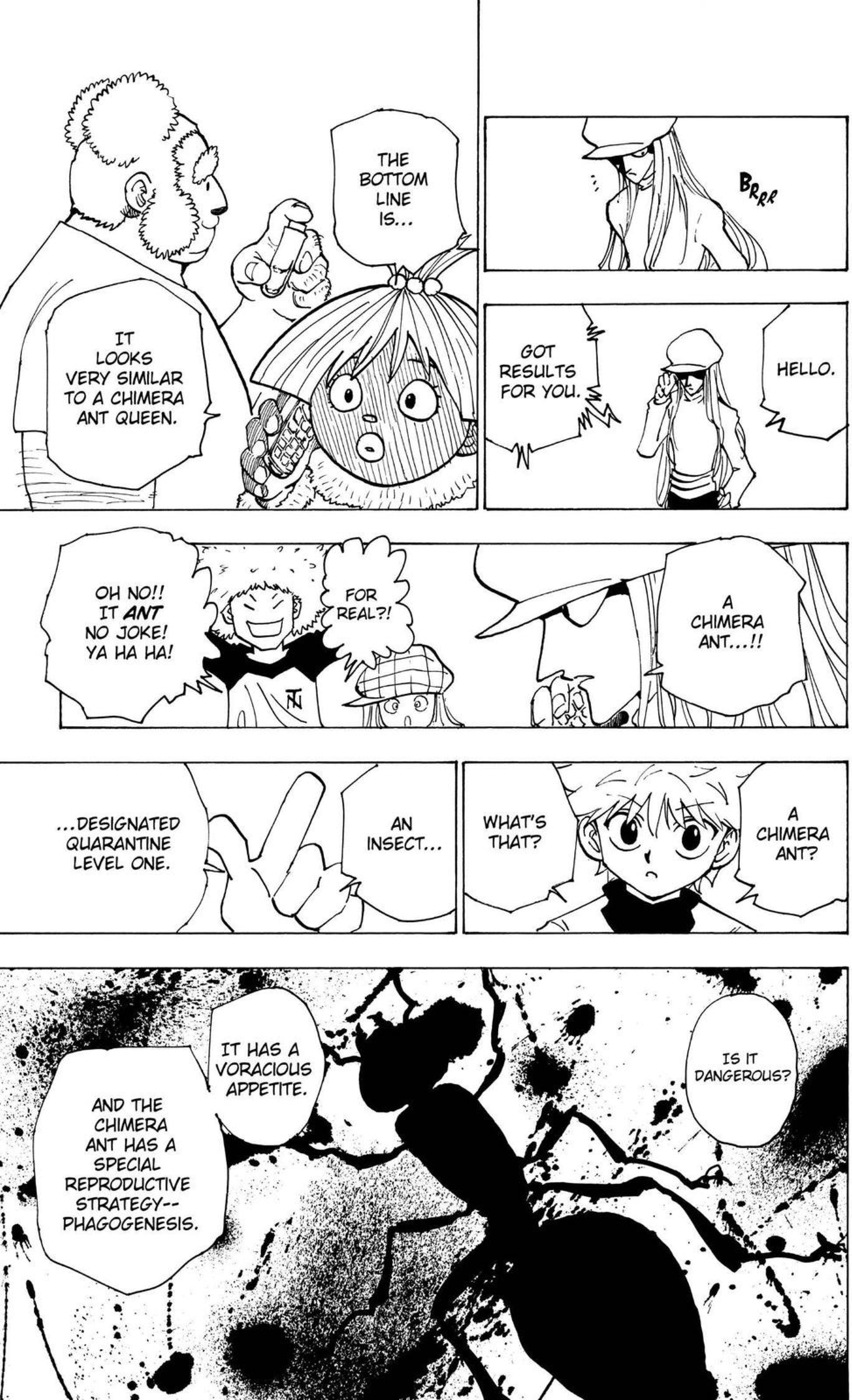

WHAT DO YOU THINK, LIN?
I-IT'S CLEARLY A PREVIOUSLY UNREGISTERED SPECIES.
I-IT'S LOOKS LIKE AN INSECT LEG, BUT...
...TH-THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANY INSECT WITH A LEG THIS LARGE.
THE CLAWS ARE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER INSECTS, TOO.
YEAH.
THIS ONE HAS SIX, WHEN IT'S NORMALLY TWO...
DID THE TARSUS DEVELOP AND EVOLVE HUMAN-LIKE FINGERS?
YEAH. THE NEXT SEGMENT HAS THORNS, AND LOOKS LIKE THE TIBIA.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND OUT MORE IF WE TAKE A SAMPLE BACK.
MAY WE HAVE A SMALL PIECE?
I CANNOT REFUSE SOMEONE RECOMMENDED TO ME BY MR. WONG.
DO LET US KNOW IF YOU EVER FIND AN ALBINO PONYTAIL CAT...

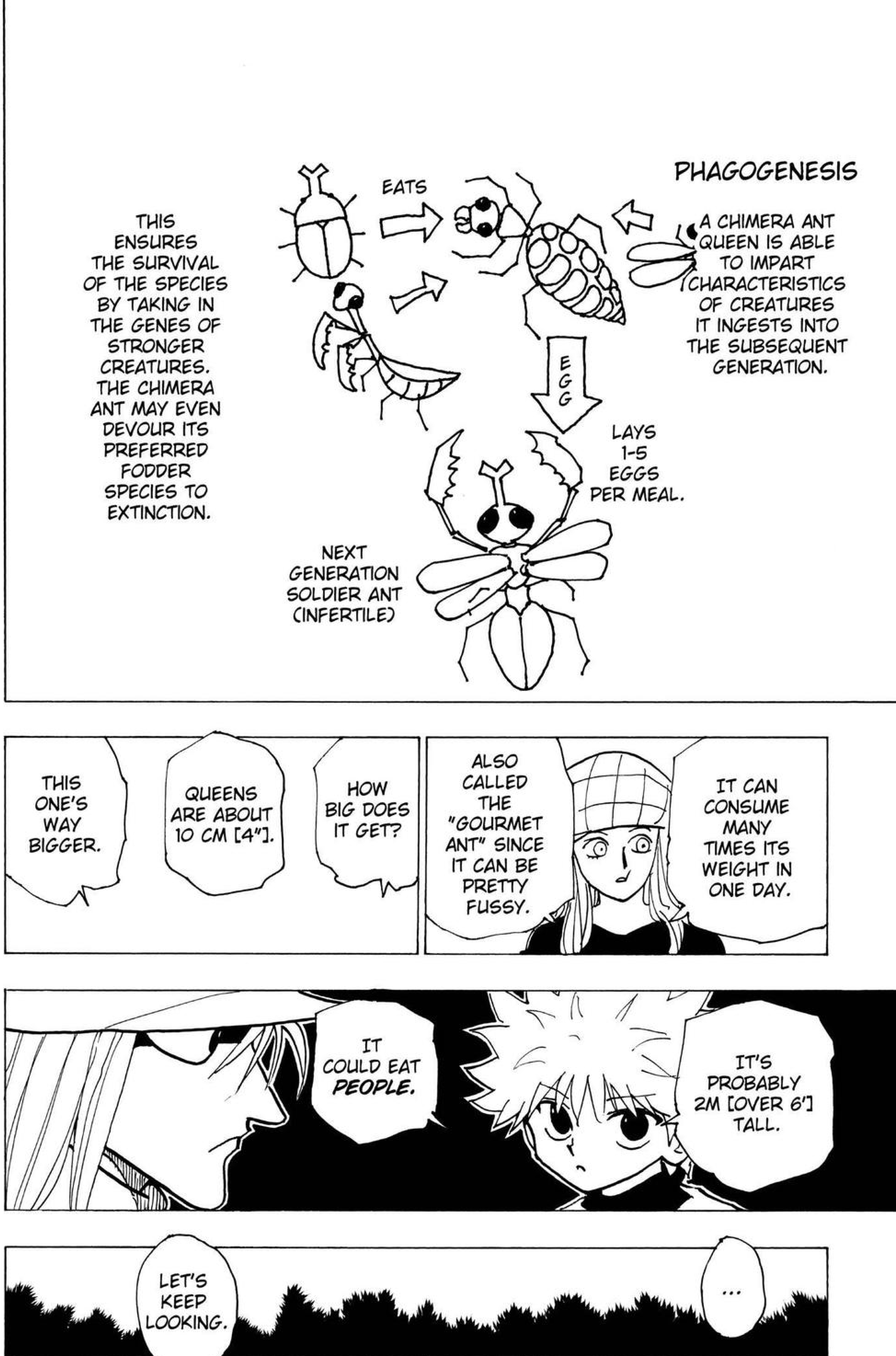

I'LL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...
...AND CALL YOU WHEN I GET THE RESULTS.
DO.
WE'LL GO INTERVIEW THE GUY WHO FOUND IT.
WHERE WAS THE LEG FOUND?
SOUTH OF YORKNEW.
LET'S GO BY LAND.
THE WEATHER'S BEEN UNSTABLE THIS YEAR.

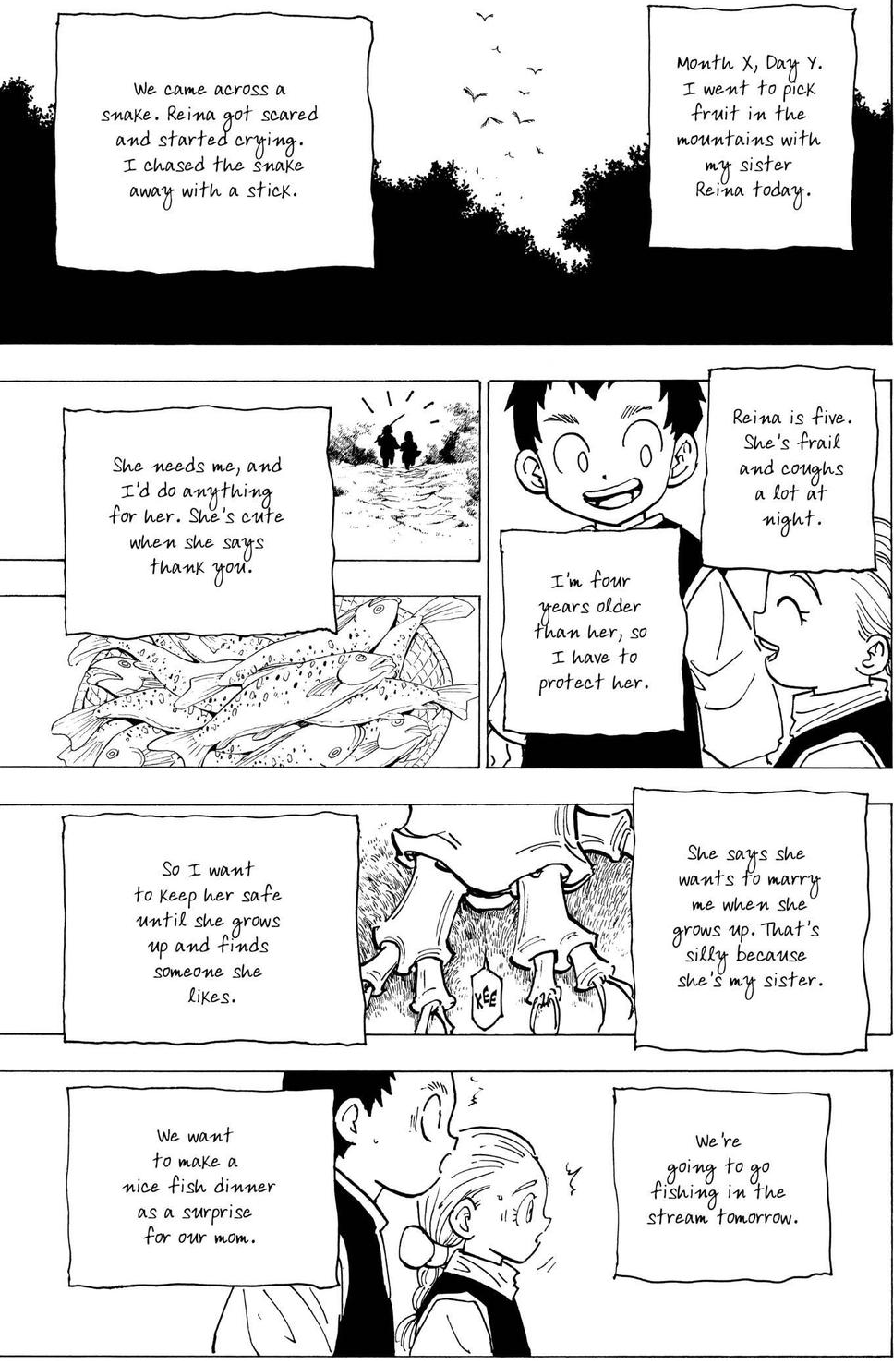

YEAH, IT WAS THAT BEACH OVER THERE.
JUST FLOATING BY THE WATER'S EDGE.
A DENSE FOREST RIGHT BEHIND US...
WE WON'T HAVE AN EASY TIME FINDING THE CREATURE IF IT HID IN THERE.
IT MIGHT NOT STILL BE ALIVE.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT WASHED UP ON THE SAME ISLAND.

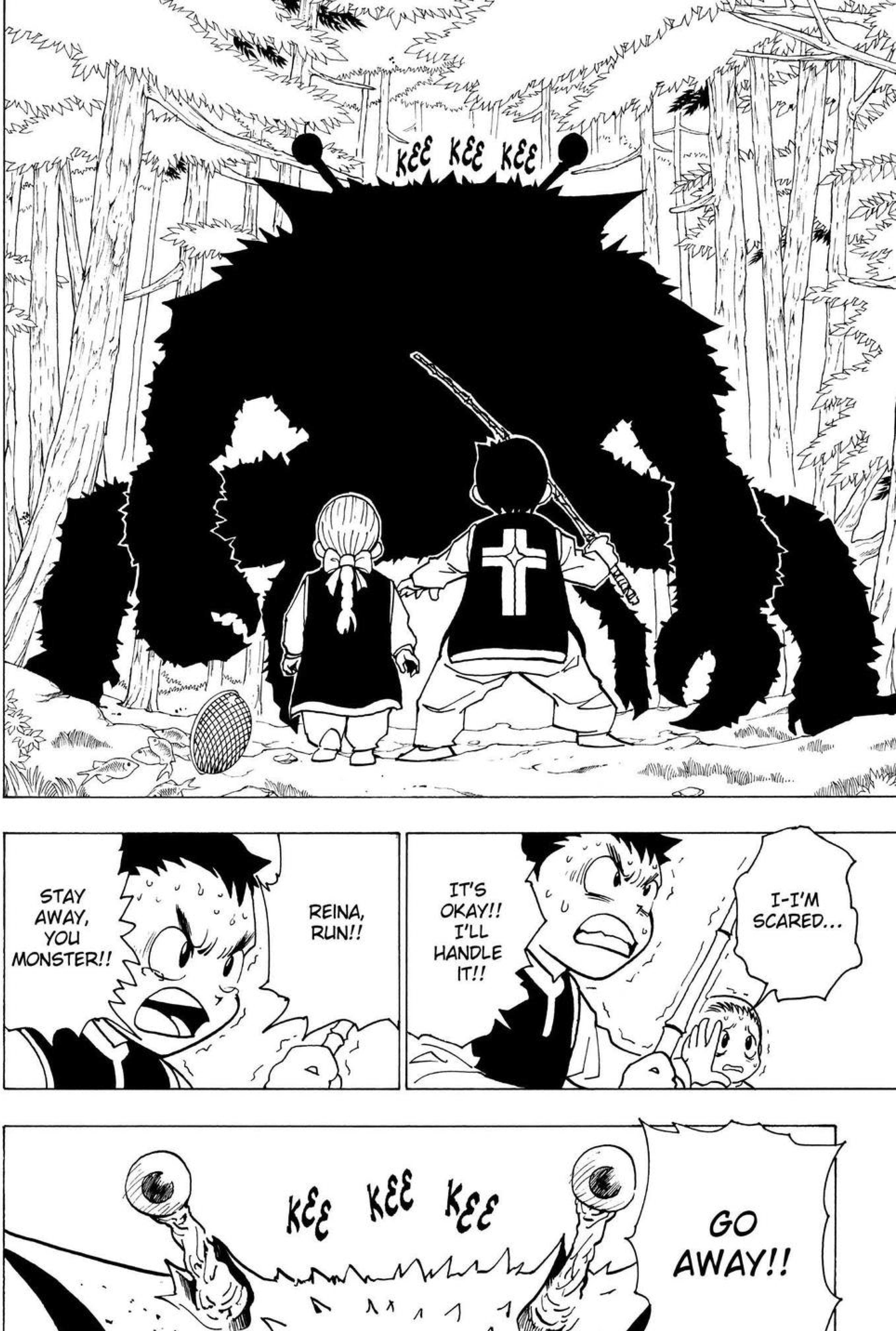

SHF
LET'S FIND OUT.
HUH
HUH
HUH
HERE, TAKE A WHIFF.
OH, ME TOO!!
DOG...
IT'S NOT ROTTEN?
HE'D REFUSE IF IT WERE.
NO, IT'S FINE.
HE REFUSES REFUSE! YA HA HA!
PSS

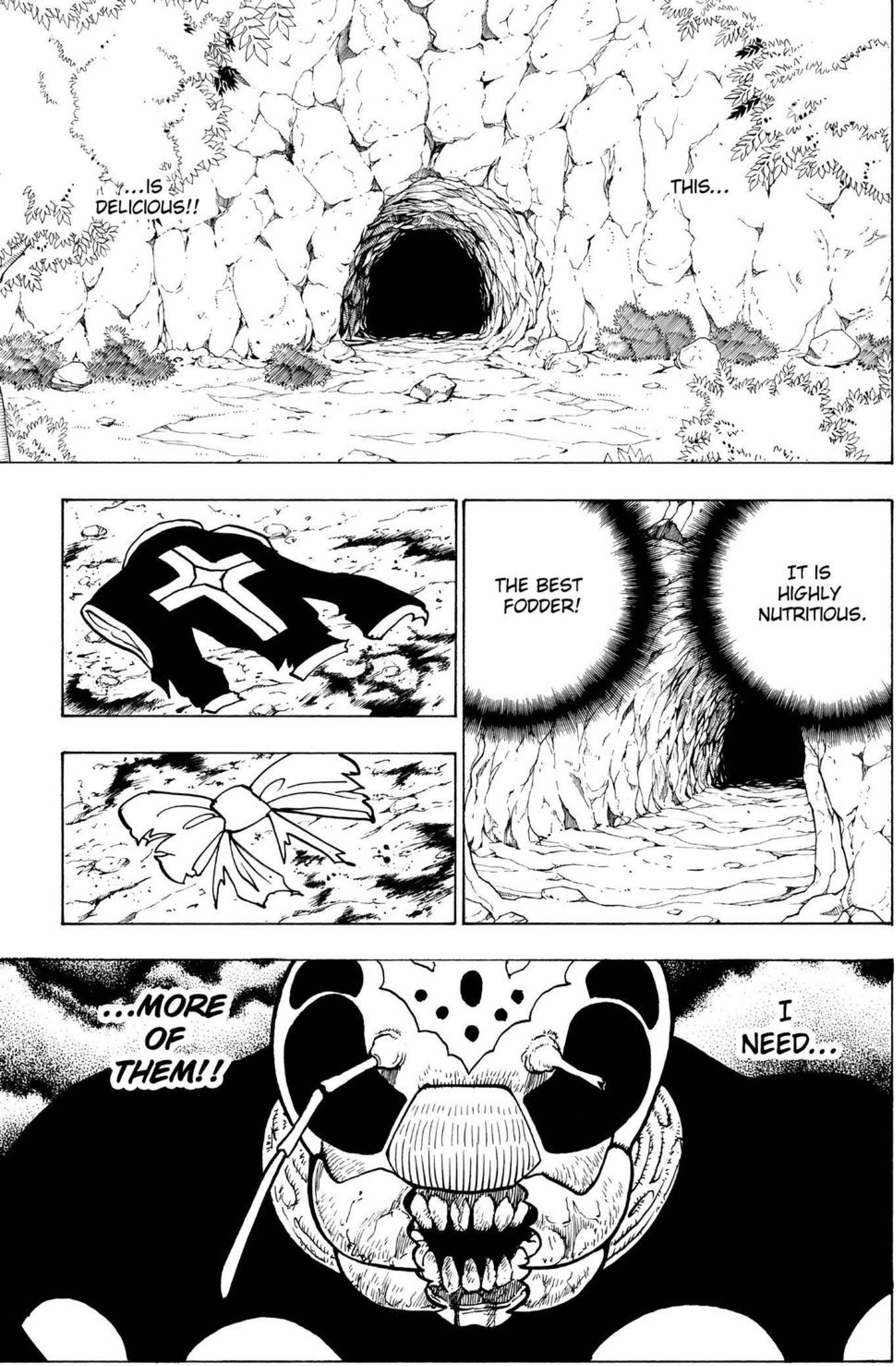

GUESS HE CAN'T FIND IT.
SO THE REST ISN'T HERE...
IT MIGHT'VE WASHED UP SOMEWHERE ELSE.
HOW DO THE CURRENTS FLOW?
IT CHANGES DIRECTION DAY AND NIGHT.
DEPENDS ON THE SEASON AND THE DAY, TOO.
IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SPECIFY A LOCATION...
LET'S SPLIT UP.
WE'LL GO THIS WAY.
CAN YOU DO THIS?
HIS NOSE WORKS JUST LIKE A DOG'S.
NO GOOD.
THE SCENT IS GONE.
IT PROBABLY RAINED.
HMM.


BRRR
HELLO.
GOT RESULTS FOR YOU.
THE BOTTOM LINE IS…
IT LOOKS VERY SIMILAR TO A CHIMERA ANT QUEEN.
A CHIMERA ANT…!!
FOR REAL?!
OH NO!! IT *ANT* NO JOKE! YA HA HA!
A CHIMERA ANT?
WHAT'S THAT?
AN INSECT…
…DESIGNATED QUARANTINE LEVEL ONE.
IS IT DANGEROUS?
IT HAS A VORACIOUS APPETITE.
AND THE CHIMERA ANT HAS A SPECIAL REPRODUCTIVE STRATEGY--PHAGOGENESIS.


PHAGOGENESIS
A CHIMERA ANT QUEEN IS ABLE TO IMPART CHARACTERISTICS OF CREATURES IT INGESTS INTO THE SUBSEQUENT GENERATION.
EATS
EGG
LAYS 1-5 EGGS PER MEAL.
NEXT GENERATION SOLDIER ANT (INFERTILE)
THIS ENSURES THE SURVIVAL OF THE SPECIES BY TAKING IN THE GENES OF STRONGER CREATURES. THE CHIMERA ANT MAY EVEN DEVOUR ITS PREFERRED FODDER SPECIES TO EXTINCTION.
IT CAN CONSUME MANY TIMES ITS WEIGHT IN ONE DAY.
ALSO CALLED THE "GOURMET ANT" SINCE IT CAN BE PRETTY FUSSY.
HOW BIG DOES IT GET?
QUEENS ARE ABOUT 10 CM [4"].
THIS ONE'S WAY BIGGER.
IT'S PROBABLY 2M [OVER 6'] TALL.
IT COULD EAT *PEOPLE.*
...
LET'S KEEP LOOKING.


Month X, Day Y. I went to pick fruit in the mountains with my sister Reina today.
We came across a snake. Reina got scared and started crying. I chased the snake away with a stick.
Reina is five. She's frail and coughs a lot at night.
I'm four years older than her, so I have to protect her.
She needs me, and I'd do anything for her. She's cute when she says thank you.
She says she wants to marry me when she grows up. That's silly because she's my sister.
KEE
So I want to keep her safe until she grows up and finds someone she likes.
We're going to go fishing in the stream tomorrow.
We want to make a nice fish dinner as a surprise for our mom.


KEE KEE KEE
I-I'M SCARED...
IT'S OKAY!! I'LL HANDLE IT!!
REINA, RUN!!
STAY AWAY, YOU MONSTER!!
GO AWAY!!
KEE KEE KEE


THIS...
...IS DELICIOUS!!
IT IS HIGHLY NUTRITIOUS.
THE BEST FODDER!
I NEED...
...MORE OF THEM!!

VOL. 18: CHANCE ENCOUNTER: END.